

Union members call for Gadaffi cash inquiry

Libyan affair 'vicious lies' says Scargill

By Tim Jones, Peter Davenport and Richard Ford

Mr Arthur Scargill, the president of the National Union of Miners, vigorously denied yesterday that Libyan money was used to pay off mortgages on his home and that of the union's general secretary.

He denied also that any money from Colonel Gadaffi's regime was used to sustain the bitter year-long dispute - but admitted meeting Tripoli officials during the miners' strike in 1984.

Mr Scargill was responding to allegations in the *Daily Mirror* that the NUM received £16,000 in strike support from Libya and denounced as "vicious lies" a claim that he and Mr Peter Heathfield, the union general secretary, used

money from Libya to pay personal debts. Amid growing calls for a full inquiry into the affair, Mr Scargill said he would be making a report to a special meeting of the NUM national executive committee, probably on Friday.

Despite his robust and detailed denials of the allegations surrounding his handling of the strike, some

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members of his union were

clearly not satisfied and demanded a full investigation into the affair.

Mr Kevin Barron, MP for Rother Valley, Labour's spokesman on the coal industry and an *ex-officio* member of the NUM's executive committee, said: "The many thousands of striking miners and their families who suffered during and for years after the 1984-85 strike will want to know how all donations and loans were used and under whose authority."

He said that any investigation should examine how the accounts were set up and how they were run.

Mr Barron added: "If there are any donations or loans which have not been paid back into the NUM's general fund and are still in separate bank accounts, then the account payees should give a full and detailed statement explaining why this situation exists."

The call for an inquiry was backed by Dr Kim Howells, Labour MP for Pontypridd and a former NUM research officer. He said: "Mr Scargill must be treated like any other NUM member by any inquiry which is set up. He is going to

be the man with the most information and he has got to be ready to answer the questions."

As Mr Scargill issued a statement answering and refuting point by point the allegations in the *Daily Mirror*, Mr Robert Maxwell, the newspaper's publisher, challenged him to sue for libel if the story linking the miners' leader with Libyan cash was wrong.

Mr Scargill said that the miner is in the hands of his solicitors.

In his statement, the NUM president said that, to the knowledge of the national officials of the union, no monies were received from Libya during or since the strike.

He declared: "If it is true that the former chief executive officer, Roger Windsor, did obtain monies from Libyan sources, then he lied about it at the time to the national officials. If it is not true, then he is lying about it now to the *Daily Mirror*."

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Mr Scargill said that only contact he or national officials had with any representatives claiming to be from Libya was when Mr Windsor had introduced "a man named Abbas" at the 1984 Labour Party conference.

According to the *Mirror*, it was Mumtaz Abbas, a Pakistani shopkeeper in Doncaster, who set up the Libyan connection, and a meeting in Paris on October 8, 1984, at the headquarters of the Confédération Générale du Travail, the trade union umbrella

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Maternity leave call for solicitors

Solicitors' firms are urged to allow women to take nine months of maternity leave and return to work part-time in a report entitled, *Women and the Recruitment Crisis* (Francis Gibb writes).

The report, drawn up by a committee of the Bristol Law Society, will go before a meeting of the national Law Society's working party on March 20. The society is to consider whether it should adopt its proposals as guidelines.

A few years ago, Mr Jonathan Goldsmith, secretary of the committee, said, women were regarded as "good work-horses, but not partnership timber". Now, firms were competing to attract women trainees.

The report recommends nine months' maternity leave regardless of length of service, and for a salary above the statutory minimum. On return to work, it urges that women be allowed nine months of part-time work before resuming full duties and examines the options of working from home, job-share, "flexitime" and three-day weeks. The Law Society is already pressing for tax relief on child care expenses.

Concern at £25m fees

An accountant speculated that secret illegal payments were made after a share support operation mounted to see Guinness win its £2.7 billion bid for Distillers, Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Alan Bailey, former Guinness chief accountant, said he was concerned the invoices were used to disguise £25 million in illicit success fees and indemnities for supporters of the bid. He said that in November 1986, before a Department of Trade and Industry inquiry, he thought the payments might breach the 1985 Companies Act.

Army race hearing set

Mr Winston Lindsay, a black former Guardsman who claims he suffered 10 months of bullying by barrack-room racists, will bring the first case of racial discrimination against the armed forces at a five-day industrial tribunal starting on April 23. At a private meeting at the tribunal offices in London yesterday, it was decided that two confidential documents belonging to the Ministry of Defence would be put forward at the tribunal.

Hotel bookings ban

Pickfords Business Travel yesterday suspended bookings at Sheraton hotels after the fire at Heliopolis, Cairo, last week in which 19 people died (Robin Young writes). Pickfords say the bookings will stay suspended until the company is reassured about safety standards at other Sheraton hotels.

Widow wins damages

A firm of solicitors admitted negligence yesterday in pursuing a damages claim for a widow and agreed to pay her £117,500 damages. Pattinson and Brewer, of Chatham, Kent, said the original legal action by Mrs Joyce O'Reilly, of Tilbury, Essex, against her late husband's employer would never have succeeded. The High Court in London was told that a writ was not issued until six years after he was diagnosed as suffering from an industrial injury.

Bully 'helpline' opens

A national telephone counselling service to help bullies and their victims was launched yesterday by Esther Rantzen, the TV presenter and chairman of Childline (Libby Jukes writes). The two-month initiative is an extension of Childline, which has already helped more than 81,000 people. Since it was set up three years ago, bullying has produced the fifth largest category of calls and is estimated to affect about 15 per cent of the school population.

Prize adds to car fund

There were two winners in yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum competition.



Mrs Phillips: Late present

PORTFOLIO

Mrs May Phillips of Wimbledon, south-west London, said that the money came as a late present for her 49th birthday, which she celebrated last Friday. "It will boost the car fund I have just started with my two children," she added.

She shares the prize with Mr Barry Harris, from Hornchurch, Essex, who will put his winnings towards the family holiday. Each receives £2,000.

For details of the competition, call 0800 222 611.

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Two landowners will pay poll tax for staff

By Ray Clancy

Two of the richest men in Britain are to pay thousands of pounds in poll tax for their employees because they don't want them to be out of pocket.

The Marquess of Bath, one of Mrs Thatcher's greatest admirers, who has £200 million fortune matches that of the Prince of Wales, has announced that he is to pay the tax for 70 employees living on his Longleat estate in Wiltshire, at a cost of £28,000.

The Duke of Westminster, officially described as the country's richest man, estimated to be worth £3.2 billion, will pay the bills for staff at Eaton Hall, his home near Chester, and on his estate at Abbeystead, near Lancaster, which set to pay them each £400 to cover the charge at a cost of £28,000.

Lord Bath, aged 85, who has a room dedicated to the Prime Minister in which he houses one of the

largest collections of "Maggie memorabilia", said he is in favour of the tax but realises it will cause a lot of hardship.

"I know that some of my workers will find it hard to find the money," he said. "They will be worse off because of the poll tax and I feel sorry for them so I am just doing them a favour. We will just have to draw in our horns and tighten our belts."

The poll tax bill for the 70 cottages will be around £24,000 from West Wiltshire district council. The authority is expected to set its charge at £340 on Thursday but Lord Bath is set to pay them each £400 to cover the charge at a cost of £28,000.

Lord Bath has to pay his own charge and the new business charge for the safari park. In the past he paid the rates on the cottages which last year averaged £300.

The Duke of Westminster used to pay almost £12,000 in rates and is set to pay £417 poll tax for each of his 65 staff at Eaton Hall and £385 for each of his 22 staff at Abbeystead which comes to almost £24,000 more than he paid in rates.

Mr Brian Bowden, the Duke's agent at Abbeystead said he was paying the bills because he does not like the poll tax. "He is determined to ease the burden for his staff," he said.

In both cases the bills will be paid as part of the employees' wages and they will have to pay income tax on the "gift".

Elsewhere in the country poll tax protesters are preparing to pay their bills in a variety of odd ways including writing cheques on slabs of concrete.

Mr Alan Debenham, leader of Taunton anti-poll tax group, said

the plan is to cause maximum disruption but remain within the law. Some people plan to turn up at the payment counter with bags of coins.

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment said it was up to the individual community charge officer on each council to decide whether or not to accept payment made in an unusual way. Each officer can decide whether to accept a cheque written on, for instance, the side of a fish. "In the past ratepayers have tried to pay in a variety of unusual ways and this will be no different," he said.

A monthly newsletter circulated in Devon and Cornwall by an anti-poll tax group lists ways of delaying payment of the poll tax including forgetting to sign cheques.

Mr Ray Cornforth, an organizer, said many life-long Conservative

voters have turned against the party because of the new charge.

The group - People Against the Poll Tax - has linked up with other protesters in Maidenhead, Weymouth and Scotland. They are producing videos, newsletters and car stickers to raise funds and are ready to pay the legal costs of people in the area who end up in court for failing to pay.

Mr Henk Kuhlman of Hatfield, Essex, said yesterday that he was going to pay his tax bill in 1p pieces. He plans to take 70,086 coins to Braintree district council to pay for the bill for himself and his wife to protest at what he considers an unfair tax.

Mr Fred Swallow, the county's assistant community charge registration officer, said the pennies would be difficult to transport to the bank but would be accepted.

MP to quit Labour in protest on charge

By Kerry Gill

Mr Dick Douglas, Labour MP for Dunfermline West, is to leave the party in protest over its stance on the community charge. He is considering standing against an official Labour candidate in the forthcoming regional council elections.

He made an announcement to his constituency party last Sunday, saying that he was keeping his options open but was almost certain to fight as an official candidate for a seat on Fife Regional Council.

Mr Douglas, who became an MP in 1970, has already said he would not stand for Parliament at the next general election. There has been speculation that he might join the Scottish National Party as he supports the nationalists' policy of non-payment of the poll tax.

Mr Douglas has been a vociferous critic of Labour's policy of abolishing the poll tax once it achieves government, but urging people to remain within the law and pay in the meantime.

Mr Douglas said if he stood in the elections it would be on a platform of non-payment of the poll tax. His constituency has now chosen a candidate to fight the general election.

He said yesterday: "I will be supporting an attitude of civil disobedience."

"I will be standing to fight to state that, having tried every thing else against the Thatcher poll tax, we have to take a very firm view that the tax is unworkable and it is a failure to try and make it work."

A spokesman for the Labour Party in Scotland said that Mr Douglas's decision to leave would be no great loss.

Mr James Allison, the party's Scottish organizer, said that before his last reselection he was regarded by many people as a right-winger.

"Now he has shifted towards the left wing, running with the poll tax non-payment lobby," he said.

Pesticide safety

Checks may wait 20 years, Labour says

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

Forty-one per cent of the chemical ingredients in pesticides now in use were last tested for safety more than 25 years ago, and it could be another 20 years or more before they have all been re-examined, it was claimed yesterday.

By failing to devote sufficient resources to pesticide review, the Government had created a "logjam" in which older, and possibly less safe, chemicals were continuing to be used while the approval of newer and environmentally friendlier ones was being held up, Dr David Clark,

Labour's agriculture spokesman, said. "The Government's clear lack of commitment to the review and approval procedure is threatening the British manufacturing industry, the farmer, our wildlife, our water supplies and even the safety of the food we eat," he said.

A survey of pesticide manufacturers conducted by Dr Clark found that they were having to wait between three and five years to have new chemical ingredients approved. ICI and Bayer had each had only one new ingredient approved since 1986 and Hoechst, BASF, Shell and Monsanto had none.

Of the 409 active pesticide ingredients approved for use in Britain at the end of last year, 298 were approved before 1981 and 169 before 1966, when testing methods were less stringent, particularly regarding measurement of carcinogenicity, Dr Clark said.

In March 1989, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food announced the introduction of their scheme to review pesticides. By December 11, 1989, the ministry had reviewed 11 active ingredients, an average of just 1.2 a month.

Therefore, with 26 reviews in progress and 279 awaiting review - a total of 305 - the review will not be completed before 2011. The ministry

said it was expanding staff at its data evaluation unit at Harpenden, Hertfordshire, and hoped that would reduce the time taken to review and approve pesticides.

Since 1985 the number of scientists working there had been increased from 16 to 30 and a staff of 61 were planned.

The British Agrochemical Association said that even with that increase the Harpenden unit would still be seriously understaffed. Mr Chris Major, of ICI Agrochemicals, said that the slow approval system was delaying the introduction of new pesticides that would be safer than some of those now in use.

'Invisible' satellite dish may bring harmony

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

An "environmentally friendly" satellite dish that could bring an end to the intercommunal friction that has split viewers and landscape lovers in some parts of the country, has been developed by British engineers.

The dish, made from a tough glass and plastic used for police riot shields, is transparent. It is being billed as the first "invisible dish", costing only slightly more than conventional fibreglass or metal dishes.

Villages such as New Earswick, near York, have banned dishes from walls and rooftops on the ground that they are "ugly birdbaths" that ruin the architecture and beauty of buildings.

In a survey of items and activities most likely to spark disputes between neighbours, dishes were ranked sixth most hated after dogs, house extensions and fast growing trees. The new device should help to eliminate such objections,

according to Mr James McCormack, managing director of Zeta Services, of Alderley Edge, Cheshire, the telecommunications firm behind the see-through dish. "We have been looking for an environmentally friendly solution to

the problem and this seems to be it," he said. "They are so transparent, it is almost impossible to see them."

The new glass, called Armoursplate, has been made by Marconi, the British defence and consumer electronics company.

Apart from its environmental benefits, Mr McCormack said the invention, which will be in the shops next month, had other important advantages. It holds its shape better, making it a more reliable reflector of satellite signals.

With existing dishes, sunlight can be reflected into the feedhorn, or pick-up unit, leading to dishes "burning out" on sunny days. The new device is transparent to sunlight.

The Zeta dish can also incorporate heat elements, similar to those in a car windscreen, to keep it free of ice and snow. About five million British homes are expected to have satellite television by the end of 1993.

After a ruling last December

by the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust, which administers New Earswick, to ban dishes from the village, several inventive ideas have been suggested to mask the receivers, including one from an artist who blends dishes into their background.

These were considered unattractive, however, that several were stolen.

Mr McCormack said that with an "invisible dish" there was remote. "You just run them spaced up when the window cleaner comes round," he said.

The Official Solicitor has withdrawn representation from the 15 per cent of High Court adoption cases where the major issues have been decided by the court at a previous wardship hearing, not from all High Court adoption cases, as stated yesterday.



20/03/90

Officials reiterate that to their knowledge no monies were received from Libya during or since the strike'

Scargill denies that Gadaffi funds were used to repay debts

By Peter Davenport

Amid growing calls from within his union for an explanation about alleged Libyan funding during the year-long miners' strike, Mr Arthur Scargill said yesterday he would make a full report to a special meeting of his national executive committee.

However, the president of the National Union of Miners insisted that claims that undercover money from Colonel Gadaffi had been received and then used to pay the personal debts of himself and other full-time officials were "vicious lies".

Mr Scargill vigorously denied that any money from Libya or Libyan sources had been received by the beleaguered NUM as far as its two full-time national officials were aware.

Mr Scargill and the union issued a detailed rebuttal to allegations in the *Daily Mirror* newspaper yesterday that the union had received £163,000 from Colonel Gadaffi after a secret trip to Tripoli by Mr Roger Windsor, then chief executive of the NUM.

In the article, Mr Windsor, who now lives with his family in France, is reported as saying that the money had been received in 1984 through a middle man, Mr Afaf Abbasi, a shopkeeper of Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

It claimed the money was then used to pay back to the union Mr Scargill's mortgage and the home loans of two of the NUM officials, Mr Windsor and Mr Peter Heathfield, the general secretary.

As the NUM issued a detailed response to the claims in a document headed *Scargill and the Libyan money - the lie*, the South Yorkshire police confirmed that they were continuing an investigation in which they wished to question Mr Windsor.

The police were called in by Mr Scargill last October after documents were reported to be missing from his office in Sheffield. The inquiry is also understood to involve claims that Mr Windsor failed to repay a loan to the union. Detectives have made several requests to Mr Windsor to submit to questioning in England but he has so far refused to return. Officers have no plans to see him in France.

The rebuttal document says: "There was no money received by the NUM either during or after the strike in 1984-5 which came from Libya or Libyan sources as far as the two full time national officials are concerned."

THE FACTS: During the course of the miners' strike, all monies brought into the National Office either by organizations, individuals, members of the public or members of staff were recorded. All members of staff who received money from outside or inside the office were required to indicate the source of the donations or loans and these were recorded. If any money emanating from Libya was brought in or received from any organization or individuals including members of staff, the national officials were not aware of it at the time, nor have they been informed since by Mr Scargill or anyone else.

The national officials reiterate that to their knowledge no monies were received from Libya during or since the strike. If it is true that the former chief executive officer, Roger Windsor, did obtain monies from Libyan sources,

Corner shop go-between who led NUM to Libya

Stories that Soviet and Libyan money reached the NUM during the miners' strike were reported extensively in 1984, particularly by *The Sunday Times*.

It was revealed then that Mr Arthur Scargill and Mr Roger Windsor had a six-hour meeting with Libya representatives in October 1984 at the Paris headquarters of CGT, the French TUC.

They met Mr Salem Ibrahim, described by French intelligence sources as Colonel Gadaffi's paymaster.

Mr Scargill said at the time that his trip to Paris was to coordinate with French trade unionists a convoy of lorries carrying food parcels to striking British miners.

After the Paris meeting, Mr Windsor went to Tripoli, where he met Colonel Gadaffi and a video of him kissing the Libyan leader was televised throughout the world.

The Paris and Tripoli visits were arranged by a Pakistani who ran a corner shop in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, Mr Afaf Abbasi.

Mr Abbasi flew to Libya via Frankfurt 11 days after the

then he lied about it at the time to the national officials. If it is not true, then he is lying about it now to the *Daily Mirror*.

The *Daily Mirror* report claims that "the home loans owed to the NUM were Scargill's £25,000 mortgage; Windsor's £29,500 interest-free bridging loan and £17,000 loan to Peter Heathfield for home improvements".

The rebuttal says: "No union money or money donated for union members or hardship purposes was used for the personal needs of national officials."

THE FACTS: Neither the national president nor the general secretary had a mortgage or loan so no question or repayment could have been perceived. By the rules and long-standing practice of the union, houses occupied by the national officials are owned by the national union. These include former officials like Lord Gormley and Lawrence Daly.

Prior to the dispute the NUM were in the process of purchasing the properties occupied by the president and general secretary from, respectively, the president and the Derbyshire area of the NUM in accordance with the procedure.

"Prior to the dispute the NUM were in the process of purchasing the properties occupied by the president and general secretary from, respectively, the president and the Derbyshire area of the NUM in accordance with the procedure.

"He is also, as is widely known, the subject of an investigation by British police who have confirmed that they still seek to interview him. That investigation was called as a result of information given to the police by the president of the NUM shortly after Mr Windsor resigned as chief executive officer when certain matters came to light."

The *Daily Mirror* gives details of the meeting that Mr Windsor says he and Scargill had with the Libyans in Paris.

The rebuttal says: "Meetings with Libyan representatives:

THE FACTS: During the strike, national officials met representatives from over 50 countries around the world. The only contacts which the national officials had with any representatives claiming to be from Libya were a) when Mr Windsor introduced a man named Abbasi to the president of the union at the 1984 Labour Party conference and, b) at a meeting in the CGT Paris headquarters on October 8, 1984.

"These facts were reported to the union's NEC in November 1984. Roger Windsor genuinely volunteered to go to Libya. The only contact since the dispute occurred was when the president briefly met a Libyan representative at the 1985 Labour Party conference in Bournemouth and when the national secretary, while attending a meeting in France, met a Libyan representative. This was also reported to the NEC. Financial assistance was not requested or given during or as a consequence of these meetings."

"The Daily Mirror was requested to put any questions on these matters in writing. Had it done so, all of the facts to which we have replied would have been made available and this smear story would have been destroyed before publication. One can only conclude that the *Mirror*'s primary purpose was to mount a malicious character assassination on the NUM's national officials. In view of the scurrilous attacks, the lies and distortions contained in the *Daily Mirror* article, the union's officials will make a report to a special national executive committee."

"An accurate record was kept of all monies paid into the trust fund along with the course of such monies and also details of all expenditure from the trust fund. These accounts have been fully examined and confirmed as accurate by one of the world's leading independent firms of accountants."

Paris meeting and Mr Windsor made the same journey on October 22.

Mr Abbasi, who is married with five children, came to Britain over 20 years ago.

He ran a small grocery shop, Express Foods, in Copley Road, Doncaster, but was rarely there because, an assistant at the shop said: "He

was a lot."

On October 13, 1984 - five days after the Scargill-Windsor visit to Paris, Mr Abbasi attended a meeting of the Pakistani People's Party in Peterborough and told his fellow exiles that, after being in contact with the NUM for over a year, he had arranged support for the miners from Libya.

He boasted: "They won't have any financial problems any more. They won't forget me for the rest of their lives."

Mr Windsor joined the NUM in the early 1980s after having worked for an international trade union organization and lived in Stroud, Gloucestershire, where his wife Angela was secretary of the constituency Labour party.

Mr Scargill denies that the NUM received money from the Soviet Union and says that if financial help had emanated from Libya "the union's national officials were not aware of it."



Mr Scargill's former home near Barnsley; and, below, Mr Heathfield's former house in Chesterfield, with garage extension.



Scargill attack on 'vicious' allegations

Continued from page 1. organization. Mr Scargill denied the allegations that any Libyan or other monies donated to striking miners were given to him or Mr Heathfield to pay personal debts.

Mr Scargill said neither he or Mr Heathfield had a mortgage or loan "so no question of repayment could have been perceived". Before the strike, the union was in the process of buying his house from him and Mr Heathfield's house from the president of the Derbyshire area of the union.

"The union had also, perfectly properly, spent some money on the properties, thereby enhancing their value to the union prior to completion of the purchases."

He said that the strike intervened, and because of a sequestration order concerned was expressed that the sequestrators might try to make out a case for seizure of the houses and other properties owned by the union.

"A decision was therefore made to repay the NUM the sums it had spent."

"The money to do so came from a trust fund, and in the president's case was repaid to that trust fund within four days from his own personal savings. The house occupied by the general secretary was eventually transferred to the union some four years after the dispute finished and remains the union's property."

"The payments and transactions referred to above were completed weeks before the date identified by the *Daily Mirror* as that on which Mr Windsor allegedly brought cash into the NUM office from Libyan sources."

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Health service poll

Reforms 'opposed by most Conservative supporters'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Government was dealt a blow over its health service reforms yesterday when a Gallup poll showed that less than a third of its own supporters approved of the plans.

According to the poll, commissioned by the British Medical Association, seven out of 10 voters are opposed to the changes and 73 per cent of the electorate think the National Health Service is unsafe in Conservative hands.

However, the poll of 836 adults showed that support for the health service reforms is low even among Conservative voters. Only 32 per cent of people intending to vote Tory in the next general election backed the plans, compared to 37 per cent who disapproved and 31 per cent who were uncertain.

When asked if they agreed with the statement: "The NHS is safe in the hands of the Conservatives" less than half (48 per cent) of Tory voters agreed, 36 per cent disagreed and 16 per cent didn't know.

Dr John Marks, chairman of the association, claimed the results represented "a massive vote of no confidence in the proposals". The poll had shown that the vast majority of people opposed the plans in spite of the Government's recent propaganda campaign, he said.

The association will also

use the survey to support its call for a full pilot study in one region to test each of the key reforms, such as self-governing hospitals and practice budgets for general practitioners. Dr Marks will be pressing for this to be included in amendments to the National Health Service and Community Care Bill during its Commons report stage.

The poll results showed that 77 per cent of Conservative voters and 70 per cent of the

extend it throughout the country."

On the details of the Bill, the poll showed that over half those surveyed would disapprove if their local hospital became self-governing, although this would be supported by 52 per cent of Tory voters.

Nonetheless, 57 per cent of Tory voters and 68 per cent of those polled said that either the local community or staff in the hospital involved

the health service reforms so far. Forty seven per cent of Tory voters and 73 per cent of all those questioned disapproved of the way the Government was trying to carry out the reforms.

The poll is the fourth commissioned by the British Medical Association in the past six months. It shows that disapproval of the reforms has remained fairly constant at about 70 per cent, even though the association stopped its publicity campaign at the end of summer.

However, approval of the reforms and agreement that the health service is safe in Conservative hands has dropped since the last poll in October, with more people now expressing uncertainty.

"The Government should stop turning its back on public opinion," Dr Marks said. Mr Robin Cook, opposition health spokesman, pointed out that between the publication of the National Health Service Bill and the debate in committee, support for the Government's plans had fallen further.

"Nor even the poll tax was this unpopular when the Bill was before Parliament," Mr Cook said. "Tory backbenchers should ask themselves if this is really the time to be voting for a Bill that will give them even worse difficulties with their constituents."

'Socialist grip' condemned

Call for privatized education system

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Large sections of British education, including schools, teacher training colleges, examination boards and universities, should be privatized to break the socialist grip on the system, which is facing an unprecedented crisis, according to a report published today by the right-wing Adam Smith Institute.

Mr Dennis O'Keeffe, its author, who is senior lecturer in education at the Polytechnic of North London, says Britain's economic future is threatened by an educational establishment which is in the hands of socialists who are replacing intellectual standards in the search for equality. "The tendency to teach sub-Marxist claptrap under the aegis of anti-racism, anti-sexism, and multi-culturalism is widespread," Mr O'Keeffe said.

A market-driven system would allow more choice: "The moaners and misanthropists will still be able to have children taught that white people hate blacks, that men oppress women, that all cultures are 'equal'." The difference will be that, like everything else, these moods will have to be sustained on the basis of personal finance.

He wants to see an Independent Council for Education, a special group of experts to advise the Secretary of State for Education, and an independent educational think-tank. He proposes that the GCSE should be scrapped and replaced by private and competing examining boards with parents encouraged to pay for books and examination fees.

"One of the greatest triumphs of socialist education is the GCSE, whose powers of intellectual destructiveness if it endures, can be seen in

its failure to fulfil its original purpose of being anti-patriotic. Solidarity with blacks, solidarity with Bangladeshis – they are impeccable. Love and celebration of this country are definitely out."

He is particularly scathing of the school inspectors who are now criticizing some teachers for a drop in standards: "The way in which the inspectors now pose as the guardians of standards, having helped the teacher-educators in their partially successful attempt to infantilise the education system, is one of the most shameful scandals of modern British life."

The Wayward Elite (by Dennis O'Keeffe, Adam Smith Institute, PO Box 316, London, SW1P 3BL, £9).

Any attempt by the Government to cap the poll tax levied by local education authorities would result in chaos in schools and could be illegal, Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said yesterday.

He appealed to ministers to consider the consequences for education before acting against high-spending councils.

Education accounted for the lion's share of local authority expenditure and capped councils would be forced to cut school budgets to avoid overspending. This, in turn, would lead to staff redundancies because teachers' salaries accounted for up to 80 per cent of school budgets, he said.

Altering budgets after April 1 could be in breach of the 1988 Education Reform Act which requires councils to set school budgets before the start of the financial year.

Mr Hart, a former solicitor, added that in his view it was "inevitable" that schools affected by capping would go to law to defend their budgets.

• The Government's education reforms are being mirrored throughout the developed world, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. A report by Professor Malcolm Skilbeck, Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University, Australia, challenges teachers' union claims that the British Government is taking a dangerously radical course.

It found that governments from Japan to Canada were pursuing reforms which, like those in Britain, gave greater emphasis to vocational skills, literacy and numeracy, testing and parent power.

Florentine Hercules bronze 'found' in a Welsh garden

SALE ROOM

By John Shaw

A sculpture found in a garden and sold last year for a record £6.82 million has led to the discovery of another unrecognized sculpture, also in a garden, and worth between £50,000 and £80,000.

The latest find, a Florentine bronze of Hercules supporting the world on his shoulders (below), turned up in a Welsh garden. It was bought for about £120 in a London antique market 20 years ago and will now be sold at Sotheby's on April 12.

It reflects the astonishing rise in value for what were once considered merely figures in the shrubbery of good country gardens. "A nation of gardeners is seeing its statuary in a new light," Sotheby's said.

A bronze of a dancing faun by Adrien de Vries, sold only three months ago, prompted the latest discovery. It was bought 30 years ago for less than £100 and was spotted by Miss Elizabeth Wilson, a Sotheby's sculpture expert.

The record price brought many inquiries from other hopeful owners to Sotheby's offshoot in Billinghamshire.



It was sold to Ferdinand Tucca, a 17th century maker.

It derives from a smaller bronze statuette by Giambologna, one of a series illustrating The Labours of Hercules, in the Castello Sforzesco, Milan.

• Fine furniture brought wealthy buyers who paid £39,533,000 (£4,135,251) at Sotheby's in Monte Carlo at the weekend for 285 lots (12 per cent bought in). A private collector paid £14,440,000 (£464,435) for the top piece, a Louis XV desk.

• Phillips staged a successful £172,500 jewellery sale in Bath with only two lots unsold, part of a new regional group sales policy drawing on the resources of its 14 salerooms in the South-West.

• Hindleham Hall, the 16th century hotel near Ipswich, Suffolk, has become a victim of the present high interest rates and is for sale for more than £7.5 million.

The 33-bedroom, four-star hotel, which has an 18-hole championship golf course, is set in 170 acres of countryside.

Winner blows own trumpet

DENZIL MCNEILANCE



James Arnold, aged 13, of Burton on Trent, celebrating winning the junior trumpet section of the UK qualifying round of the European Music for Youth Prize in London, yesterday. In the finals in London in July young trumpeters from Europe will compete for £3,250 in prizes.

Reshuffle on Liberal Democrats' front-bench

By Nigel Williamson
Political Staff

In a reshuffle designed to take effect from the Easter recess, Mr Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP for Bermondsey, will take over responsibility for the party's response to the Government's Environmental Protection Bill.

He takes the post of environment spokesman from Mr Malcolm Bruce, who will now concentrate exclusively on Scottish matters. He will be supported in a newly-strengthened team by the existing Scottish spokesman, Ms Ray Michie.

Mr Hughes has strong links with the Green movement. Mr Bruce, however, will introduce the party's new policy on energy and environment at the Liberal Democrat conference in Cardiff next weekend.

In other front-bench changes announced by Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, last night, Mr Matthew Taylor, who at 27 is the youngest MP, assumes Mr Hughes' previous responsibilities for education.

Mr Taylor's former role as trade and industry spokesman goes to Lord Ezra, the former chairman of the Coal Board, who will develop policy for the general election.

Mr Alan Beith, the party's

Treasury spokesman, will now

also cover trade and industry

matters in the Commons,

supported by Mr Menzies

Campbell, a member of the

Commons Trade and Industry

Select Committee.

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Developer continues fight to build £1m house in green belt

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Mr Bill Woods wants to build a stately country house in the middle of his 95-acre farm in Bedfordshire as his home and as a contribution to English architectural heritage. He has, however, been refused permission because it is in the green belt.

He is to resubmit an amended application in the hope that it will be treated on its own merits, and has drawn up plans to landscape the whole of the farm.

Mr Woods, a property developer who has spent more than £30,000 preparing the scheme, estimates that the house alone will cost £1 million to build, and the final bill, if he is allowed to go ahead, will be nearer £2 million.

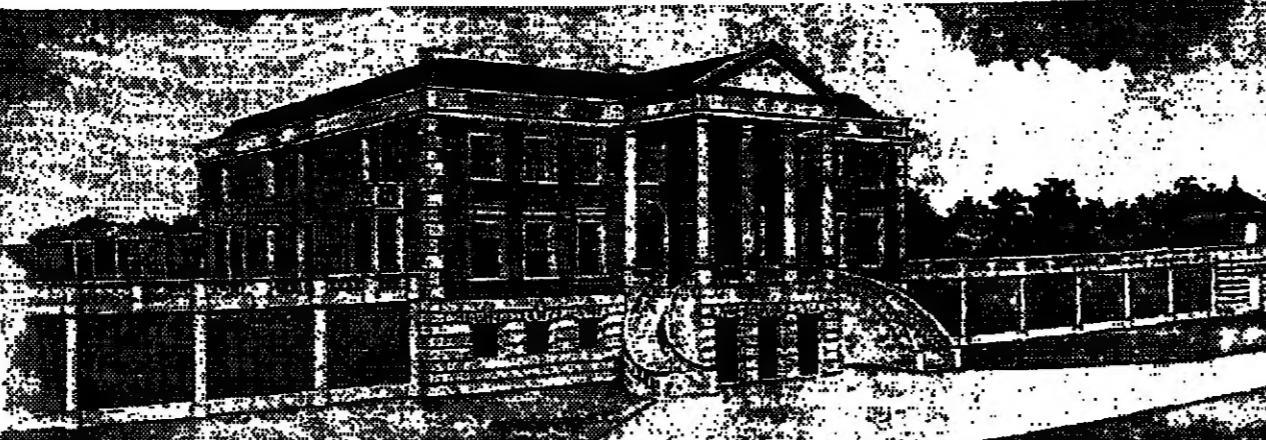
Mr Alp Arikoglu, his architect, who has designed a

classical country mansion in Georgian style, says it is a once-for-all opportunity, and criticizes the constraints of the green belt.

"The green belt is supposed to protect the landscape, and this project will enhance the landscape. It would be terrible if no more grand houses could be built because of green belt policy."

There is, ironically, permission for a house, granted on agricultural needs, in the Hertfordshire section of the farm, which straddles the border between the two counties. This, Mr Woods is prepared to forgo.

His architect decided on the particular site for the big house because it was in the middle of the farmland, between two gentle slopes and two of the largest woodlands, which are scarcely visible from pub-



Architect's drawing of Mr Woods's "contribution to English heritage", with two wings, a stable block and formal gardens.

lic roads. The proposed house, with a great hall reached through a raised portico, has two wings, with a stable block and formal gardens in the fully landscaped grounds, which will involve the planting of

5,000 trees. "The proposed buildings will be of such quality that the already outstanding beauty of the land shall be further enhanced," the plans suggest.

That grand design has so

selected, "although not immediately visible except to views from the south-east, would present a conspicuous location having, by the very nature of the house design, a dramatic impact on the landscape within the Green Belt, area of outstanding natural beauty, and area of great landscape value".

In his submission to the council, Mr Arikoglu argued that the green belt would be strengthened by the proposals rather than weakened "as they bring the land under the close control of a caring landowner who would live on the spot".

Mr Woods said: "I already live in a nice house, built in the 1930s, thatched, mock Elizabethan. But I want to build a grand house to live in."

His attempt to build a country house receives endorsement from the agents

Strutt & Parker. In a general statement it adds: "What are the modern 20th century country houses that will become the period houses of the 22nd century?"

Mr Jonathan Major, a partner, says it is probably more difficult to obtain permission for a new country house on a virgin site than to get permission for a business park.

"The environment in which we live would appear to be, at least in some planners' eyes, less important than the one in which we work."

He argues that there should be a controlled planning policy which would allow new houses to be built in the countryside, creating a new housing stock which would go some way to reduce the "gentrification" of small houses and cottages, often enlarged by most unsuitable extensions.

Zeebrugge victims' families still seek damages for stress

By David Sapsted

Relatives of some of the passengers and crew killed in the Zeebrugge ferry disaster three years ago are still seeking compensation from P&O, the owners of the vessel, it was disclosed yesterday.

As the 36-month deadline for legal action passed at midnight last night, the company was facing writs issued by solicitors representing 40 relatives who are claiming psychiatric injury after the sinking of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* in which 193 died.

Lawyers are planning to press Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, to appoint a judge to hear a group action for what is expected to set a court precedent over compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder.

None of those seeking compensation were on board the ferry but they are suing P&O for the nervous illnesses they say they suffered because of media coverage of the tragedy. If they are successful, it could have far-reaching implications for the legal entitlements of the relatives of others involved in disasters. Similar action is planned by families of those killed at Hillsborough.

Mr Michael Napier, a member of the solicitors' group repre-

senting passengers' families since the tragedy on March 6, 1987, said: "I believe these people have well-substantiated cases both legally and medically for compensation for nervous shock. They have been forced to take legal action because they have failed to receive compensation from the hardship fund set up by P&O after the disaster."

Crew members' families have obtained 24 writs against P&O, three of which have been served on the company by Mr Christopher Erving, the union's solicitor, as the basis for a sample action.

He said: "Some of these people have suffered quite horrendous psychiatric damage: among the 24 are two husbands, also seafarers, who have not been able to work since the disaster because their wives were stewardesses on the Herald. Both women, in fact, survived unharmed but the consequences on their husbands have been only too real."

The claims by the so-called "remote" relatives is based on the psychiatric injury they allege they suffered by seeing the tragedy unfold on television and in the newspapers, not knowing whether their loved ones were alive or dead.

"P&O seems to be totally unwilling to recognize that nervous shock can be caused by a disaster to a person not actually at the scene. We are not talking about grief, but real psychiatric illness," Mr Peter Spooner, a member of the executive committee of the Herald Families' Association, said.

"From my own personal experience, I know the anguish caused by the television pictures and newspaper accounts. Every time I saw that damned ship, I knew the body of my youngest son was aboard it somewhere. It is a pity that three years after the disaster, P&O are still resisting the claims of people who suffered a definite illness."

All other claims from survivors or those bereaved have been settled. In February last year, 10 survivors successfully took their compensation claims for post-traumatic stress disorder to arbitration. However, the company has refused to give the relatives' relatives access to arbitration.

P&O declined to comment. The company, along with former executives and crew, will stand trial at the Central Criminal Court next September on charges of manslaughter.

Raised furniture and belongings piled up yesterday outside bungalows that until recently were under several feet of sea water as a result of the floods in Towy, North Wales, last week.

Mopping up operations along the flood-hit north Wales coast were under way yesterday as thousands of evacuees waited for the all-clear to

return to their homes. Only a few from outlying areas of the flood zone have so far been able to return home.

The sea wall that gave way last Monday, bringing disaster to the coastal village in Cilwyr, was sealed a week after freak winds and high spring tides smashed open a 200-metre section. Emergency workers

have worked round the clock since Thursday dumping 60,000 tonnes of rock and cement into the hole.

A total of 2,800 properties in Towy and its neighbouring communities of Kimmel Bay and Pemar, Dyfed, were flooded. Those evacuated were put up in the homes of relatives and friends and some in emergency centres;

Calwyn Borough Council has put up 350 people in hotels and holiday accommodation. Pupils of Towy Junior School returned to their studies yesterday in the temporary setting of Bodewyddan Castle.

Relief workers have been checking properties and police are maintaining an "exclusion zone" in the area.

Student feared oral test would be unfair

By Mark Sapster

Mr Francis Foecke, a former Bristol University student accused of cheating, chose not to submit to a *viva voce*, an oral examination, of his ability because he felt he would be "screwed" by the university.

Mr Foecke said he would have been happy to have a *viva* before he was found guilty but not after when the chance of a fair hearing was, he believed, non-existent.

On the twelfth day of his appeal hearing into cheating allegations, Mr Foecke, aged 32, said he feared Professor Geoffrey Grimmett, his inquisitor, would adopt "an aggressive and bullying" tone which, Mr Foecke claimed, he had adopted when accusations of cheating were first made.

"I cannot conceive that once those accusations were put to me there could be a fair assessment," Mr Foecke said. "I would have been screwed."

Under cross-examination

'Impertinent' journalist criticized

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A journalist's appeal to the House of Lords against a court order to hand over his notebook or face punishment for contempt ran into problems yesterday when a Law Lord questioned whether the House should hear a case brought by somebody who had "cocked a snook" at the law.

Lord Bridge of Harwich asked why the House should hear the appeal by Mr William Goodwin, a trainee reporter on *The Engineer* magazine, since he had had the "impertinence" to say he had not "the slightest intention of complying with the law."

Mr Goodwin has consistently refused to obey orders requiring him to disclose his notes of a telephone conversation which, it is thought, could identify the person who leaked a company's confidential financial affairs to him.

He said, however, that he felt the board had proved Mr Foecke's guilt. "The chances of similarity between Mr Foecke's scripts and the outline solutions being as many as they are and involving as many unique features as they do, by innocent means, are astronomically small."

The hearing continues today.

The company cannot be named because of the communi-

cation or the activities of one of the company's competitors.

Lord Bridge asked whether it would be unreasonable for a court to refuse to hear an appeal by someone who had cocked a snook at the courts.

Mr Goodwin, in written evidence, had issued a "proclamation of defiance", he said.

He puts his duty to his profession above his duty to obey the law," Lord Bridge said, sitting with Lords Templeman, Griffiths, Oliver and Lowry. "Why should the House of Lords hear an appeal in these circumstances since he was not the slightest intention of complying?"

Mr Geoffrey Robertson QC, for Mr Goodwin, who is backed by the National Union of Journalists, said the reporter believed he was morally justified in keeping his sources confidential because of his duty as a journalist.

He did not believe that the information he received was as a result of a criminal enterprise, personal malevo-

lence or the activities of one of the company's competitors.

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Mr John McDonnell for the company said it did not wish to "stifle" any appeal by Mr Goodwin. "The company's whole object is not to persecute Mr Goodwin but to enable them to identify the source of his information."

The lords decided they would hear the appeal on the merits but leave the question whether the courts decided, he would not comply with any order.

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Other applications were made in the name of the instigator's wife and son. All were found not guilty to four sample charges of making illegal multiple share applications. It is alleged he applied for 12,000 shares in British Gas in December 1986 and 12,000 shares in Rolls Royce in May 1987.

Mr Knox-Brown paid those who helped him £20 as a "thankyou", it was alleged.

The case continues today.

Painting charges

Two Britons and three Turks were being held last night after a 17th century Dutch painting by Gabriel Metsu called "Lady Reading a Letter", stolen from Sir Alfred Beit's collection in Ireland in 1986, was found in Turkey.

Mr Nessef Tas, head of Istanbul's financial police unit, said the painting was valued in 1986 at £16 million. He said Mr Allen Jackson, of Northern Ireland, Mr James Mullan, of Scotland, and three Turkish men would probably appear before an Istanbul court charged with possession of stolen goods.

Baby drowned

Sarah Thurlow, aged 10 months, of Great Clifton, Workington, drowned in her bath while her mother fetched a towel, a West Cumbrian coroner was told yesterday.

The inquest was adjourned.

Fake daffodils

Armathwaite Hall Hotel in the Lake District is to plant hundreds of plastic daffodils so that Easter guests will not be disappointed because mild weather means real daffodils are already in full bloom.

The lords decided they would hear the appeal on the merits but leave the question whether the courts decided, he would not comply with any order.

Mr McDonnell for the company said it did not wish to "stifle" any appeal by Mr Goodwin. "The company's whole object is not to persecute Mr Goodwin but to enable them to identify the source of his information."

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Mr Knox-Brown paid those who helped him £20 as a "thankyou", it was alleged.

The case continues today.

House moving

A 500-year-old stately home Speke Hall may be lifted up and moved to a new location to make way for expansion plans at Liverpool airport. If the plan goes ahead, the National Trust-owned Tudor landmark will be the first building of its type to be moved.

Rabies alert

A rabies alert was issued yesterday after a cat which could be infected with the disease escaped from a Dutch timber lorry in Gloucester.

Oldest cow

Bold, believed to be Britain's oldest cow, died yesterday aged 35. The mother of 29 calves was buried by Mr Will Evans, her owner, at his farm in Llanllhaearn, Gwynedd.

Saw death

A retired schoolmaster died when a chainsaw he was using to trim garden trees fell on him. Mr Michael Brisley, aged 62, of Southwell, Notts, was rushed by ambulance to hospital in Newark.

Attacker jailed

Nigel Cross, aged 29, was jailed for six years at Leicester Crown Court yesterday after admitting two charges of abduction with intent to have unlawful sex with two students at Loughborough last October.

Murder charge

Mrs Carol Wray was yesterday accused at Halifax magistrates' court of murdering her husband and daughter, aged 11 in a fire four years ago.

Policeman 'made multiple share applications'

He had made applications for shares in British Gas using the address and Christian names of his neighbour, Mrs Smith, and her son. He changed their surname to Brown. Another application was made for shares in the name of Charles Keith Brown, who did not exist, it was alleged.

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He had made applications for shares in British

Military coup leader pleads for help as looting mobs run riot across Ciskei

Pretoria sends in troops to quell wave of 'anarchy'

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

South African police and troops have been sent to the "independent" tribal homeland of Ciskei to halt widespread looting and rioting sparked by a coup at the weekend.

Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, said the security forces were sent in yesterday to restore order and to protect threatened South African interests. The decision had been taken after an appeal for assistance from Brigadier Cyprian Gqozo, the former Ciskei military intelligence chief, who deposed President Lennox Sebe in the bloodless coup on Sunday morning.

As witnesses reported huge mobs rampaging throughout the territory, Mr Botha said one crowd was heading for government buildings in Bisho, the capital, with the intention of burning them down. Damage was estimated at millions of pounds, and there was a danger of the violence spilling into South Africa.

Official sources said the security contingent comprised police and army units, which had deployed in Bisho and the nearby town of Dimbaza within an hour of Brigadier Gqozo's appeal being received.

Residents said the turmoil appeared to be the result of anarchy, rather than opposition to the new ruling military council. The mobs had begun looting properties owned by Mr Sebe and members of his government, but had moved on to ransack and burn factories, supermarkets, liquor stores and petrol stations.

Mr John Goldhill, an employee of a clothing company, said he saw more than 10,000 people overrunning an indus-

trial area on Sunday night. "We were lucky to get out in time. They were carrying out blankets, televisions, everything they could find. Every shop was being looted, it was a free-for-all."

He said he saw no Ciskei police or soldiers in the area.

Other witnesses said a shopping centre and a bus terminal in Mdantsane, an industrial suburb of Bisho, had been reduced to smouldering ruins.

Pretoria has not yet recognized the military council now running the impoverished territory, which was granted nominal independence in 1981. Mr Botha said the priority was to stop the

The Pan Africanist Congress yesterday snubbed attempts at a rapprochement with Mr Nelson Mandela and the ANC in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare. Mr Zephaniah Motiengoe, the PAC president, denounced Mr Mandela's overtures of reconciliation with whites. At the University of Zimbabwe Mr Mandela donned the robes of honorary doctor of law, awarded him in 1987.

Leading article, page 15.

violence, and recognition was a political matter which would be considered later.

The South African forces moved in. Brigadier Gqozo appealed for calm at a mass rally in a sports stadium near the capital.

Shortly after seizing power, Brigadier Gqozo accused the deposed regime of violence, corruption and nepotism, and said his ultimate goal was the reintegration of the homeland into South Africa.

He was cheered by local leaders of the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party, who favour the dismantling of

the administrative capital at Bisho, said to be threatened by the mobs, was built in the early 1980s and comprises two presidential palaces, luxurious residences for ministers and bureaucrats, a huge office block for civil servants and a security police headquarters.

The strife is the latest in a

history of internecine power

struggles and conflicts with

Transkei, which followed an



Cashless take-away: Looters outside a store in Bisho, the capital of nominally independent Ciskei, after the military coup that overthrew President Sebe.

Troubles hit homelands

From Nicholas Beeson
Johannesburg

This weekend's bloodless coup in Ciskei is the latest challenge to the South African system of tribal homelands.

Since the release of Mr Nelson Mandela last month and the announcement by President de Klerk that the future of the homelands is negotiable, most of the 10 homelands have been hit by a rash of strikes and violent protests.

The campaign of civil disobedience, orchestrated by pro-ANC youth, student and trade union activists demanding the territories reintegration into South Africa, has erupted in most of the black-ruled administrations, where 10 million of South Africa's 27 million black population live.

In Ciskei, the notoriously brutal regime of President Lemox Sebe was overthrown by a pro-ANC military junta on Sunday which freed hundreds of imprisoned ANC activists and announced plans for the homeland to be reincorporated into South Africa. The unrest

has also affected Bophuthatswana, where hundreds of people have been arrested after a series of strikes and protests.

Also affected are the eastern homeland of Gazankulu, where South African Defence Force troops have been drafted in to help to put down a widespread uprising that has left 16 people dead; Venda, where riot police have fired tear gas to break up a demonstration by hundreds of students; and neighbouring Lebowa, where police opened fire on stone-throwing youths.

Even the Zulu leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi of KwaZulu, who commands widespread loyalty among the country's largest tribe and is widely expected to be a key figure in any future negotiations, is finding his support being eroded by the ANC.

One notable exception in the recent unrest is the Xhosa tribal homeland of Transkei, Mr Mandela's birthplace and traditionally an ANC stronghold, where Major-General Bantu Holomisa, the military leader, is actively encouraging reintegration into South Africa and plans to hold a referendum on the issue.



WORLD ROUNDUP

Shamir set to ride out Likud storm

Jerusalem — Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday met senior ministers from his deeply divided Likud Party amid growing indications that a majority of Likud MPs and senior officials flatly oppose American terms for peace talks with the Palestinian delegation in Cairo (Richard Owen writes). They believe this will lead to talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization and even the re-division of Jerusalem.

But sources close to Mr Shamir said that, if the Israeli leader decides despite this revolt to recommend acceptance of the US plan — under "tremendous US pressure" — at tomorrow's meeting of the Cabinet, he would be able to carry the Cabinet with him and then ride out the resulting storm in Likud.

Labour, Likud's coalition partner, was also riven by differences on Sunday as the deadline it imposed two weeks ago for the acceptance of the terms laid down by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, expires today.

Unita calls for truce

Lusaka (Reuter) — Rebel Angolan forces appealed for a ceasefire in their 15-year war with the Government yesterday as South Africa, Cuba and Angola met to review a regional peace accord which will usher in Namibia's independence on March 21. Dr Jonas Savimbi, the rebel leader, told Unitas radio that he was ready to accept an immediate ceasefire, organized by President Mobutu of Zaire if government troops would abandon military gains of the past two months. It was the first time that Unitas rebels had admitted the Government had scored military victories recently. Government forces say that they have captured the key rebel-held town of Mavinga and twice bombed Unitas headquarters at Jamba, deep in south-eastern Angola, during a military offensive begun in December.

Enrile court ruling

Manila — The Philippines Government of President Aquino faces a Supreme Court ruling today that would decide its test case of rebellion with murder against Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the opposition leader (Vivian Tenorio writes). Mr Enrile, who is being detained in a suburban police headquarters, has petitioned the Supreme Court for his release, saying that the charges are "non-existent" in the Penal Code. He was arrested under a non-bailable offence of "rebellion with murder" which is punishable by life imprisonment, and a lesser offence of harbouring the rebel leader. Mr Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan. Mr Enrile's arraignment on the charge of rebellion with murder, scheduled for yesterday at the Quezon City regional trial court, was postponed pending the Supreme Court decision.

Lhasa clampdown

Peking — With the approach of Tibet's most sensitive anniversary, there are reports of tightened security around monasteries in Lhasa, the capital, as the authorities brace themselves for the possibility of renewed unrest (Catherine Sampson writes). Tanks have been stationed in front of the Jokhang monastery to intimidate would-be pro-independence protesters, sources said. Tibet's traditional prayer festival, Mon Lam, began last week, although in a severely limited fashion. In 1988, demonstrations broke out during Mon Lam and in the following year it was cancelled. But that led to the biggest demonstrations of all, a bloody crackdown by the Army in which dozens died, and the imposition of martial law a year ago this Wednesday at midnight.

Ship trial delayed

Pireaus (AP) — A three-member tribunal yesterday postponed the trial of an Italian captain accused of ramming a cruise ship carrying hundreds of British schoolchildren. Captain Flavio Caminale, aged 47, of Genoa, was formally charged in November, 1988, with manslaughter through negligence, causing serious bodily injury, causing a shipwreck, and ignoring shipping regulations after four people died in the collision outside this port city. A court source said that Captain Caminale was reportedly ill and could not come from Italy to attend the hearing and that a new trial date would be set. Two Greek crewmen, a British schoolteacher and a British girl, aged 14, died as a result of the accident.

Rafsanjani's brother in surprise Beirut visit

Tehran tries to speed up hostage deal

From Juan Carlos Gamancio, Beirut

The brother of President Rafsanjani of Iran has been in Beirut discussing with senior Shia Muslims details of an alleged loan to secure the release of foreign hostages. Informed sources said no final agreement has yet been reached.

The unexpected visit by Mr Mahmoud Hashemi Rafsanjani on Sunday night came only hours after talks with Mr Farouk al-Shara, the Syrian Foreign Minister, in Damascus and prompted a new wave of speculation regarding the release of at least some of the 17 foreigners kidnapped by pro-Iranian radicals.

Officially, Mr Rafsanjani's trip to Beirut was described as technical. Iranian officials said that he came to Lebanon to discuss possible Iranian help in developing a new water project for the densely populated southern suburbs.

But informed sources said that Mr Rafsanjani also held private meetings with leading Muslim fundamentalists, including Sheikh Muhammad Husain Fadlallah. He was also believed to have extended a formal invitation to Mr Shara to visit Tehran and meet President Rafsanjani and Iran's supreme leader, Hojatoleslam Ali Khamenei.

Sheikh Fadlallah last week

reinforced the belief that a

solution for the hostage crisis

may be within reach. In an interview with *The Times* last night, he said that the Americans and Iranians were holding secret negotiations to try to obtain the release of eight American captives. "My instinct tells me that something was moving and the atmosphere (for the release) is positive," he said.

Mr Rafsanjani's contacts in Beirut and Mr Shara's impending trip to Tehran were the latest signals that Sheikh Fadlallah's instincts could prove correct.

However, sources yesterday cautioned that a significant development could take weeks, given the complexities of the negotiations. Although the interests of the main protagonists — Iran, the United States, Syria and the Lebanese captors — appear to be gradually moving towards a common ground, there are still many crucial details waiting to be resolved.

Some political analysts in west Beirut believe that expectations have been placed too high and that progress — if any — could easily take months. It is believed, for example, that Iran's outspoken and enthusiastic disposition to help may be a manoeuvre to increase pressure on the Americans to yield to Tehran's demands.

In the rumour mill of Beirut, there is speculation

that behind Iran's apparent eagerness to help the hostages lies President Rafsanjani's burning desire to accelerate a solution on Iranian terms.

Despite denials by the Americans, Tehran's allies in Lebanon insist that the Bush Administration is negotiating with Tehran and that the slow pace of these contacts is

that behind Iran's apparent eagerness to help the hostages lies President Rafsanjani's burning desire to accelerate a solution on Iranian terms.

They are also demanding the unblocking of Iranian assets which were frozen by the Carter Administration in 1979 and American pressure of the Lebanese Forces, threatened with excommunication on Friday unless they stopped fighting, silenced their guns on Sunday night.

President Rafsanjani already appears to have convinced his most radical rivals, who until recently were ardently opposed to any negotiations with the Americans over the hostage issue.

An indication of this change came on Sunday when Tehran's *Kayhan* newspaper, regarded as the mouthpiece of the hardliners led by the former Interior Minister, Mr Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, forecast that "the hostage file will be closed by mid-summer".

● Christian peace: Lebanon's Christians enjoyed their most peaceful day in more than a month of war yesterday as mediators worked to turn battle fatigue into lasting peace (Reuters reports).

Traffic clogged the rubble-strewn streets of the Christian enclave while many of the remaining residents ventured out under cloudy skies, some for the first time in weeks.

Hundreds joined the exodus to safety which has already cut the original 900,000 popula-

tion by about 120,000. More than 800 have been killed in the fighting since it erupted on January 31. Troops of General Michel Aoun and militiamen of the Lebanese Forces, threatened with excommunication on Friday unless they stopped fighting, silenced their guns on Sunday night.

Christian political sources said mediators shuttled across barricades separating the rivals for talks on implementing a peace plan largely ignored since it was agreed last month.

The plan calls for an end to military operations and agreement on the future military role of the 10,000-strong Lebanese Forces. It was General Michel Aoun's demand that the Forces disarm that sparked the war. Political sources said both sides had agreed to reopen roads, disengage forces and hand over security to the police. An Aoun aide said a comprehensive pact was within grasp.

Political sources said the new peace moves followed the apparent failure of General Aoun's drive against the Lebanese Forces, which control two-thirds of the enclave, its ports and main power station. A senior Christian leader said General Aoun had to realize he had lost militarily and the battles should stop while a final peace settlement was negotiated.

The Foreign Office, on the other hand, wants the language used by ministers and Falklands military personnel to be carefully tailored to avoid upsetting President Menem of Argentina, who has so far agreed to keep the question of sovereignty over the islands on the back burner.

It thinks it is in Britain's interests to show support for President Menem, because he offers the best chance of improved relations.

Agreement was reached last month to renew diplomatic ties and lift the 150-mile military protection zone on March 31.

Mr King's visit to the islands so soon after the agreement was coincidental. But it meant that anything he said which could be seen as provocative towards Argentina would be frowned on in the Foreign Office.

Mr King's dilemma became apparent in his press conference the day after arriving in the Falklands when Major-General Paul Stevenson, commander of the British Forces here, was asked whether there could be a cut in the British garrison strength now that diplomatic ties were renewed.

The Royal Marines general was unequivocal in his opposition to cuts, and gave his opinion that Argentina needed to become much more stable and the armed forces put on a more "level keel".

Mr King, quickly noting that this was a political matter, spoke more diplomatically, emphasizing that he did not envisage any "immediate" change in force levels.

The 2,000 islanders, however, maintain an in-built suspicion of the Foreign Office — and never reticent about their ill feelings towards Argentina, are already preparing a less than friendly reception for the families of the Argentinians killed in the Falklands conflict, who are to pay their respects at the war cemetery about five miles from Goose Green.

There could be demonstrations when they arrive.

Muslim militants target belly-dancers

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

Islamic militants in Egypt, traditionally one of the most tolerant countries in the Arab world, have launched a campaign against the Oriental art of belly-dancing and threatened violence against the estimated 22,000 professional dancers who continue to deny their claim that the exotic dance is immoral.

The threats of violence, which have prompted many of the nation's star performers, such as Miss Fifi Abdou and Miss Nagwa Fiad, to employ round-the-clock teams of personal bodyguards, have been accompanied by a controversial Islamic lawsuit now before the Cairo courts designed to force the Government to shut all belly-dancing venues for good.

As well as increasing internal tensions between the main religious (which again broke into rioting in southern Egypt last Friday) and causing apprehension among the mass of ordinary Muslims, the accelerating campaign for *Sharia* is also posing a threat to tourism, one of Egypt's main foreign currency earners.

The clash occurred after police had shot dead another fundamentalist leader.

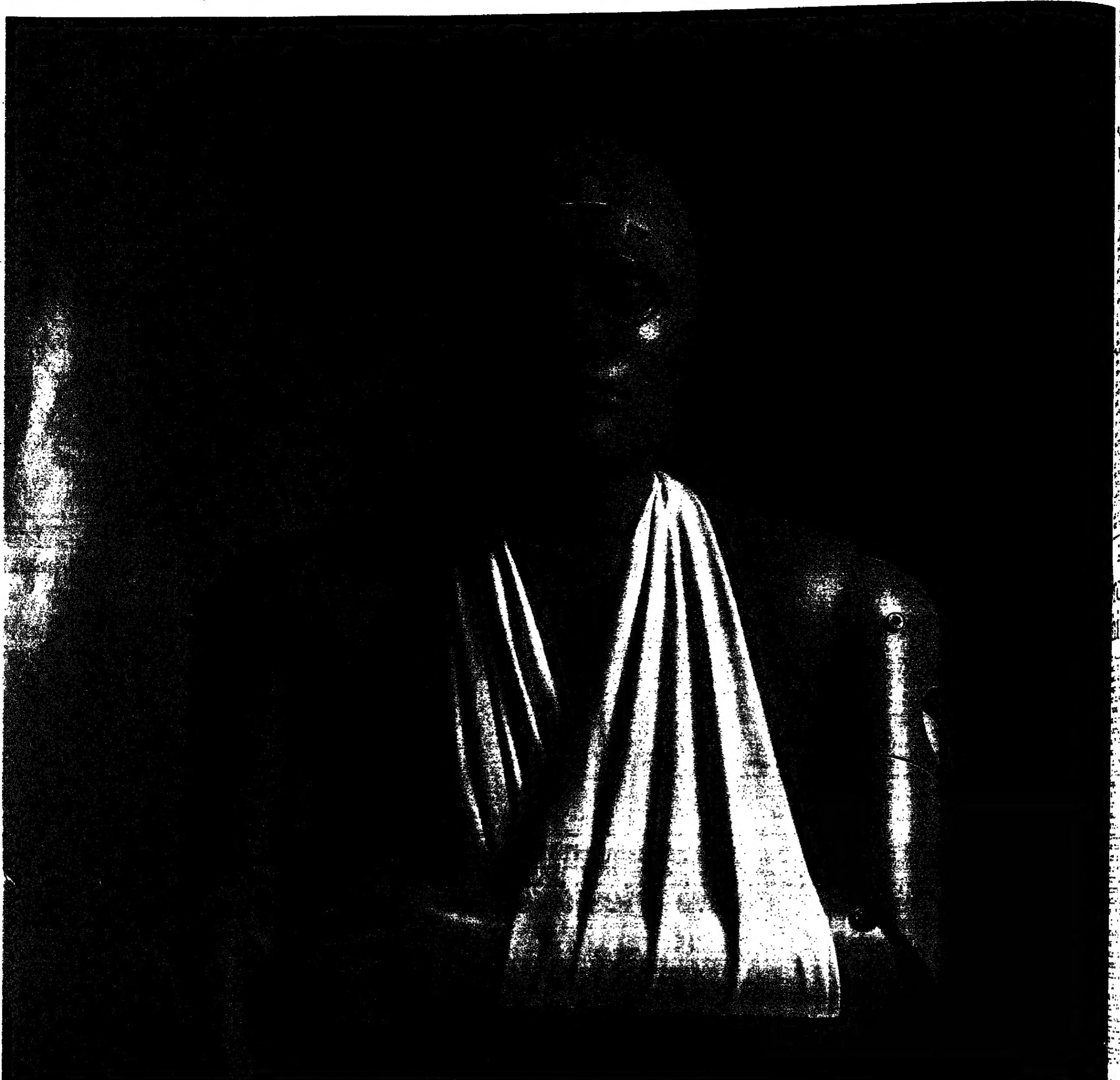
In a statement published in *The Egyptian Gazette*, the staid English-language daily, Mr Mahmoud el-Khodari, jailed leader of one of the many fundamentalist splinter groups now opposing the moderate Government of President Mubarak, announced that his followers would flog any belly-dancer caught performing.

"We beat up belly-dancers we find to deter them from performing," declared Mr Khodari, aged 36, who was arrested last month for allegedly leading a group trying to set fire to a police car while its driver was still

inside.

The clash occurred after police had shot dead another fundamentalist leader.

In response to the threats, nightclubs owners have taken their own extensive security measures designed to prevent the recurrence of the recent incident when a Cairo belly-dancer



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SAAB

THE AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURER

Old wounds reopen in Croatia as the Serbs demand arms

From Richard Bassett and Dessa Trevisan, Belgrade

Relations between Serbs and Croats, crucial to the preservation of Yugoslavia's unity, deteriorated yesterday after a 50,000-strong demonstration by Serbian nationalists in Croatia on Sunday night.

The demonstrators gathered around Petrova Gora, a mountain in central Croatia, waving Serbian flags and carrying portraits of Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader.

Shouting "Give us arms", the demonstrators appeared determined to provoke the Croatian authorities, but despite several hours of protests reopening historic wounds the police stood passively by.

There has been a Serbian community at Petrova Gora for centuries. During the Second World War it was a partisan stronghold, fighting off Croats who served the pro-Nazi Pavelic regime. The Serbs claim that more than 70,000 of their kinsmen died.

Unlike Serbia, which last November rejected pluralism

for its parliamentary elections, Croatia is committed to free elections in two months.

Many parties have sprung up in Croatia to contest these elections, but the 500,000 Serbs living in Croatia are unwilling to take part. They have founded their own Democratic Party, which is committed to looking towards Belgrade and Mr Milosevic rather than towards Zagreb and Croatia.

At Sunday night's demonstration, most of the shouting hailed Mr Milosevic and his policies of greater centralization.

These have led to the formation of a radical nationalist Croat party, led by Dr Franjo Tudman, a former general whom Marshal Tito dismissed from the Yugoslav Army in 1971.

Dr Tudman's Croat Democratic Community Party believes that Croatia's historic frontiers should be extended to include Bosnia. As the Serbian extreme nationalist

party led by the writer Mr Vuk Draskovic also lays claim to Bosnia, conflict appears inevitable.

Moderate parties are falling by the wayside. At a recent convention in Zagreb, Dr Tudman even said the collaborationist Pavelic state represented the aspirations of Croatia.

This provoked allegations that Dr Tudman was a crypto-fascist. Dr Tudman published yesterday a statement distancing himself from the Pavelic regime.

Most of the Croats purged in 1971 by Tito, however, are lending their support to a coalition of moderate Croatian opposition parties.

Relations between Serbia and Croatia deteriorated in January when the Croats supported the Slovenes at the party congress in Belgrade.

Since then the communist party in Croatia has been portraying its future along the lines of a Western European social democratic party.

Letter from Sydney

Dropping out of white man's poll

The Australian general election campaign has failed to stir the people of Eveleigh Street. Nobody who lives down that bottleneck, bleak little road has ever voted or ever will.

Only Aborigines live there, marooned in the black inner-city district of Redfern in the shadow of Sydney's skyscrapers. It could be Philadelphia, Chicago or the Bronx.

There is not one political poster in any of the forlorn, derelict roads in this classic ghetto. No politician ventures this way, because there are no votes to be had. People say elections are a white man's ways, alien to Aborigines.

Music from a band called Black Brothers pounds out from a ghetto-blaster. People sit dreamily on the pavement outside their crumbling houses, smoking and drinking cheap whisky in the afternoon sun; a police car prowls by, and is missed until it disappears around a corner.

"Pigs," says Mr John Bayles, an Aboriginal from Queensland. "We call them pigs." Dreadlocks flow across his shoulders and a thick black beard hides most of his face. He wears nothing but a pair of green shorts, "which is all I own".

He left Queensland years ago because it was "a police state". He says he refuses to work for wages because that would be bowing to the white man's system. "For a long time I was a good little black boy trying to act like a good little white boy. No more, brother, no more."

Mr Bayles once went to the United States on a six-month agricultural education tour financed by Quakers. He saw Indian tribes from California to Maine and found nothing but tragedy and ruin. It changed his life.

"There is no difference between them and us. We share the same white man's oppression, except theirs has been going on for longer. The Aboriginal can still be saved. That is why I have stopped trying to be white."

Eveleigh Street is a place "where whites fear to tread", according to a recent Sydney newspaper headline. Taxi drivers will not go there after dark. Police occasionally raid it in search of drugs and stolen goods. The ragged neighbourhood held a protest march last week against police tactics.

Round the corner on Cope Street, inside a half-dereel

Christopher Thomas

Nine are killed in Kashmir shoot-out

Srinagar (Reuters) - At least nine people were killed yesterday in Indian-ruled Kashmir as security forces fought to quell a Muslim separatist revolt, witnesses said. Officials confirmed a total of four dead, including a non-commissioned army officer shot by one of his own men in Baramulla, near the Pakistani border.

The officials said that the soldier, who had been detailed to enforce a curfew in the town, also wounded a colonel. They declined to say why the soldier opened fire.

Witnesses said Muslim militants shot dead four security force men when Indian authorities allowed a brief break in the curfew in the

Royal visit for the Romanian survivors

ADRIAN BROOKS



Princess Helen, daughter of Romania's exiled King Michael, visiting survivors of the uprising in December at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore, Middlesex. Mr Cioran Anini, aged 35, centre, and Mr Popescu Cain, aged 24, are receiving specialist treatment there for their injuries.

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PARLIAMENT

ALISTAIR GRANT

Labour invites Newton to 'do a Walker'

Pensioners' incomes rose by over 30 per cent between 1979 and 1987. Mr Tony Newton, Secretary of State, Social Security, said at question time.

Latest figures also showed that between 1974 and 1979 their total income rose by 3 per cent. The figures were dismissed by a Labour spokesman who urged Mr Newton to "do a Walker" and leave office.

Mr Paul Flynn, an Opposition spokesman on social security, said that Labour were impressed by the news that top people had increased their incomes by 28 per cent in a single year.

"The rich are becoming richer on a prodigious scale and the poor are becoming poorer very rapidly. Does he not find himself filled with self disgust at his role? Is he not tempted to leave office and do a runner, as we say in Wales, do a Walker?"

Mr Newton said that, between 1974 and 1979, pensioners' average total net incomes rose by 3 per cent in real terms. Newly acquired figures now showed that, between 1979 and 1987, they rose by over 30 per cent in real terms.

The answer to Mr Flynn's question was a firm "no". Pensioners' incomes had been

PENSIONS

rising more quickly than those of the population at large.

Mr David Harris (St Ives, C) said that the substantial record of the Government was far more important than the rhetoric of the Opposition. Labour had a miserable record.

Mr John Battle (Leeds West, Lab) said that, with the removal of transitional arrangements for housing benefit, those in income support were finding their increase in pensions this year had been wiped out.

Mr Newton did not think that that point stood up.

Mr Andrew Bowden (Brighton, Kemptown, C) asked him to look carefully at the wartime generation of pensioners. Many were unable to save or own their homes. They had not shared fully in the increased standards of living.

Mr Newton: We have very much sought to direct extra help to those who do not have savings and occupational pension income.

Mrs Marion Roe (Bromsgrove, C) asked for the most recent figures for the change in pensioners' incomes from savings.

Mr Newton said that between 1979 and 1987 pensioners' average income from savings had

more than doubled in real terms.

Mrs Roe asked what proportion of people retiring received income from occupational pensions.

Mr Newton said that the proportion overall was just over half, but among more recently retired pensioners it was about three-quarters.

Mr David Whinck (Walsall North, Lab) said that, instead of trying to defend the shabby way pensioners were penalised and lost rebates because of their savings, the minister should have the guts to do what the Secretary of State for Wales, Mr Peter Walker, had done.

Mr David Nicholls (Tunton, C) said that many of those now retired who thought that they had made adequate provision saw their savings devastated with the Labour Government's inflation.

There was concern on the Conservative benches about savings, particularly in relation to community charge benefit. It appeared to be a tax on thrift and prudence if people lost the rebate when they had made an effort to save.

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Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State for Education, visiting Westworth Nursery School in Hackney, east London, yesterday. A report by the school inspectors (HMI), also published yesterday, was unstinting in its praise of the quality of work and the strength of leadership at the school whose head teacher is Mrs Mary Conquest. The minister said: "The report proves that education in Hackney can be as good as any in the country".

Luce refuses direct grants for the four 'flagship' national arts companies

The use of a government direct grant, bypassing the Arts Council, to meet the financial problems of the four "flagship" national arts companies, the Royal Opera House, Royal Shakespeare Company, Royal National Theatre and the English National Opera, was rejected by Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts.

Mr Mark Fisher, Opposition spokesman on the arts, said during question time that all national companies were under threat of closure unless their deficits were tackled.

Mr Tony Benn (Newcastle North West, Lab) had asked the minister to discuss with the Arts Council steps to reduce the deficits of the national companies.

Mr Luce replied that it was for the Arts Council to decide the level at which the national companies are funded. In 1990-91, they would each receive a grant increase of 11 per cent.

Mr Benn asked what other European countries would treat its national companies in the way that this Government treated ours. He knew that they had

been independently examined and found to be most efficient in the way in which they spend the grants they get.

"Will he consider additional funds, and funding the national centres direct from the ministry, as opposed to funding through the Arts Council or will it all be stopped by the Queen of the Gods over the road?"

Mr Luce said that next year there would be one of the biggest increases ever in cash terms - £400,000 extra. Mr Banks was not listening.

The judgement of other countries was not necessarily the right answer. The question was whether the national centres were of the highest quality.

"The answer is yes. We have every reason to be proud of them."

Mr Benn: No thanks to you.

Mr Tony Benn (Twickenham, C) said that the national centres should try a little harder to live within their means.

Mr Luce agreed. The Arts Council would have a big increase in the coming year. They had £20 million extra in cash resources; 22 per cent in cash terms for

the next three years, together with extra funding. It must be seen as a sane basis for finance.

Mr Fisher said that all the companies, taking account of last year's increase, would be behind the rate of inflation over the past five years.

That was why they had the accumulated deficit of more than £7 million and the figures announced would not begin to tackle that. The deficits would not go away. If they were not tackled, it would not be just the RSC, but others, that would close.

"Ten years of Tory mismanagement will lead to the arts being bankrupt."

Mr Luce said that Mr Fisher was asking him to intervene directly, to undermine and ignore the principle of arms-length funding that had been in force since the Second World War under successive governments.

The Arts Council had had a £20 million increase and it was for the council, not the minister, to decide how to distribute that.

Earlier, Mr Charles Wardle (Bexhill

and Battle, C) had asked what assessment the minister had undertaken of the impact of charitable status on arts bodies.

Mr Luce said that arts bodies which were charitable derived considerable financial benefits from their charitable status. Under the newly established arrangements for the unified business rate, the minimum mandatory relief which local authorities must give to charities was to go up from 50 per cent to 80 per cent.

Local authorities continued to have discretion to give up to 100 per cent relief to charities.

Mr Wardle asked how many net gainers there would be as a result of the change.

Mr Luce said that it was not possible to be precise, but the English National Opera, the English National Ballet, the Royal National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, were all net gainers. The amount of corporate sponsorship had gone up and was still increasing.

'Child benefit stays' pledge

Suggestions that the Government was to abolish child benefit were denied by Mr Tony Newton, Secretary of State for Social Security, during question time in the Commons.

Answering a question about the future of the benefit, Mr Newton said that the Government had no plans to do other than what it was committed to doing, which was to review child benefit by year's end.

Mr David Primo (Bristol South, Lab) asked the exchanges by asking what would be the cost of uprating child benefit to bring it to the same level in real terms as in 1984.

Mr Newton: About £635 million net in this financial year.

Mrs Ewina Cawle (South

Derbyshire, C) said that it would not be sensible to use that huge sum of money to help all families, but it should go to help the lowest paid. If the Government wished to help the poorest, modest changes in the tax rules on benefit would assist members of those families that wished to get back to work.

Mr Newton said that he would pass that suggestion on to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

It was a fact that more than £1 billion of expenditure on child benefit went to 1.75 million families with incomes above £20,000 a year.

Mrs Clare Short, Opposition spokesman on social security, asked why the Government did

not come clean with mothers about the future of child benefit. The Government's failure to operate the system in line with the rate of inflation was depriving every child in Britain of £1.35 a week.

Had the Government not breached the promise in its election manifesto?

Mr Newton said that the answer to almost every part of her question was "no". The Government had maintained its commitment in the 1987 manifesto and had at the same time targeted substantial additional resources. As a result of what would happen next month, something like 1.5 million families would do better than had child benefit been uprated.

The amendment reflected the

cross-party amendment compelling British Coal to consider environmental risks when it granted licences to private companies to operate open-cast mines was approved without a division during the report stage of the Coal Industry Bill in the House of Lords.

The amendment was accepted by the Government after its defeat by 16 votes on the issue during the committee stage of the Bill last week.

Lord Norris (C), moving it, said that he was heartened by the Government's positive response.

The amendment reflected the

concern on all sides of the House for improved environmental duties to be written into the Bill.

The measure would leave the House a better and greener Bill than when it entered it.

Lord Graham of Edmonton, for the Opposition, said that a week was a long time in politics.

Only last Monday ministers strenuously told peers that was no need for this kind of amendment.

Viscount Ullswater, for the

Government, said that there was no difference between the Government's aims and the aims of the supporters of the amendment. Operators of open-cast mines should have full regard to the environment, whether they were in the public or private sector. The difference was in the way in which aim could be achieved.

The amendment sent a signal to the operators of the country's open-cast mines of the importance of high environmental standards. That signal was stronger because the amendment was supported by the Government.

The amendment sent a signal to the operators of the country's open-cast mines of the importance of high environmental standards. That signal was stronger because the amendment was supported by the Government.

He said that a sad aspect of aviation security over the years was that all too often additional security had been introduced only after tragedies.

All research since the Lock-

erie disaster in 1988 showed that the public would be prepared to pay extra for security in the price of their tickets. The Government should re-examine the Aviation Security Bill.

Mr Peter Snape, an Opposition spokesman on transport, moved a new clause to provide for a levy to provide a fund administered by the Government.

He said that a sad aspect of aviation security over the years was that all too often additional security had been introduced only after tragedies.

Labour had voted against the abolition of the fund in 1983. Its re-establishment would be a

comparatively painless way of funding the security measures they all wanted to see.

Mr Peter Fry (Wellingborough, C) congratulated the Opposition on putting forward this new clause.

Those indulging in international terrorism were becoming more sophisticated and it would be idle not to accept that many people in the aviation industry were concerned at the cost of ensuring a more secure travelling scene.

He had been appalled to

discover that, immediately after

Lockheed, an American airline

had brought in the most up-to-

date equipment to check bags at Gatwick but there had been no room for it. "It took six months for BAA to find room at Gatwick to put that machine into operation."

Many passengers would be

happy to pay a reasonable charge to have the comfort in their minds that everything on safety was being done.

Mr Michael Portillo, Minister for Public Transport, said that security should be paid for by the airline, the airport and the passenger.

The clause was rejected by 203 votes to 135 - Government majority, 68.

Tory chairman shrugs off burdens as he joins the hustings

Candidate admits 'upset' of poll tax

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

Staffordshire

Voters are "upset" about the community charge, the Conservative candidate in the Mid-Staffordshire by-election conceded yesterday as he began the uphill struggle to hold on to a 14,650 majority in the face of the most buoyant Labour challenge in a decade.

Mr Charles Prior, the nephew of Lord Prior, the former Cabinet minister, acknowledged public disquiet over the issue as Mr Kenneth Baker, Conservative chairman, sought to inject some vim into his party's campaign.

"There are always issues that are going to upset people, and certainly the community

charge is going to be one of those issues that we have got to get across," Mr Prior said.

"One or two people are bound to be upset by it because the whole essence of the community charge is to ask people, everyone who benefits from local authority services, to contribute something towards it."

Mr Baker, labouring under the multiple burdens of Mr Peter Walker's startling resignation, poor opinion poll ratings and a concerted attempt to hold him personally responsible for the poll tax in his earlier incarnation as Secretary of State for the Environment, was undismayed.

However, with Labour heading for a 5,000 majority on March 22, according to the MORI poll, Mr Baker was careful not to raise the stakes too high. All by-elections were important, he told reporters,

suggesting that he has few illusions about his chances of halting Mr Neil Kinnock's advance through this predominantly rural constituency, which links the north and west Midlands and incorporates three towns - Lichfield, Rugeley and Stone.

With his ruddy complexion and Barbour coat, Mr Prior looks the archetypal gentleman farmer. But he is a Berkshire-based managing director of a publishing and training company and, on yesterday's showing, will not lack stomach for the fight.

He also showed some finesse, dodging a question about the timing of Mr Peter Walker's announcement of his

opinion poll, a Labour vi-

tor would be its best by-election result since 1935. He should have little to fear. Mrs Sylvia Heal, a crisply turned out 47-year-old social worker and magistrate from Surrey, dealt efficiently with some tame tony bawling. On the doorstep, voters were attracted to Labour's policy of a property tax linked to ability to pay - otherwise known as the "roof tax" - because they found it fair and comprehensible, she maintained.

Dr Cunningham, meanwhile, marooned Mr Baker alongside Papua New Guinea as the only enthusiasts for a poll tax while portraying Labour as being on the mainstream of Western thinking with its ideas on local taxation.

Mr Paddy Ashdown launched the Liberal Democrat campaign with a claim that the Tory vote was crumbling fast. However, he did not believe that disenchanted Conservatives would readily make the transition to supporting Labour because of its record in local government and its "ridiculous" roof tax. The SLD plan for a local income tax was a vote-winner, he maintained.

Mr Ashdown made much of the local connections of his candidate, Mr Tim Jones, a 38-year-old barrister, who has fought the seat twice before. Mr Jones had not been chosen in London and then participated in like his main opponents, Mr Ashdown said.

Mr Jones, speaking a few doors away from the headquarters of the Green Party, struck an environmental note, saying that he was a defender of the countryside and that none of his election materials contained hardboards. Some of his posters had been recycled.

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SPECTRUM

A cry from the heart of Russia

THE TIMES INTERVIEW

Boris Yeltsin might claim to be the authentic, sometimes ignored, Russian voice of the USSR. Barbara Amiel met him

When we got off the plane in Amsterdam last Sunday night, Boris Yeltsin was in a good mood. "I am building bridges," he explained to me. "Contacts with various leaders in different countries. Democratization in our land must take place for the workers, people, anyone. If they are free, they will not allow totalitarianism to return." He was tired, but he went straight to the television studio to be interviewed.

Then he was informed that arrangements for him to see members of The Netherlands government had fallen through. Mr Yeltsin's face crumpled. The Foreign Affairs Minister, it was explained, had refused to see him on the grounds that it would offend the Soviet Embassy, who had not officially requested a meeting on Mr Yeltsin's behalf. Mr Yeltsin looked towards the corner of the television studio where a black-clad figure sat morose and chain smoking. The Soviet Ambassador to The Netherlands had come, unexpectedly, to greet Mr Yeltsin. "He says," one television crew member whispered, "he has to do it because Yeltsin is a member of the Soviet Parliament. It's protocol." A Dutch journalist whispered that President Bush had greeted Mr Yeltsin — would Mrs Thatcher see him next week when he comes to London? The studio went silent as the interview began. The questions were in Dutch, of course, but before the translator could go to work, Mr Yeltsin heard the second word and smiled. "Gorbachov," he repeated to himself. "Gorbachov and Yeltsin."

I had expected Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin to be a laid-back man. Why, I am not entirely certain. Perhaps it was talk of his drinking exploits and emotional outbursts. Perhaps it was my cynicism about his fight against privileges for the *nomenklatura*, later rather than earlier in his political journey. The script had an overblown flavour.

I sensed opportunism or, more accurately, a sense that Mr Yeltsin was more significant in the headlines than in his specific political gravity. A blowzy Don Quixote, I thought.

We talked first on the flight from Vienna to Amsterdam, he eating deftly and carefully from his airline tray. "I never eat carbohydrates or sweet things," he said, proffering his complimentary chocolates to me. His discipline seemed un-Russian, but perhaps the choice was between waistline, sweets and alcohol. He has managed to keep the waistline, forgo the sweets and I watched him quaff two mini bottles of champagne and two of red wine with disarming frankness and amazing speed. They had absolutely no discernible effect, proving that it takes a lot of the stuff to effect a healthy 6ft 3in Russian.

The first surprise was the sharp edge and precision with which Mr Yeltsin frames his thoughts. He was also more controlled in his being than press reports led one to believe. He was reflective when we first met. He had come straight from the election in his republic — the Russian Socialist Federal Republic (RSFR), the largest in the USSR, taking up over three-quarters of its land and almost twice the size of either the United States or China. Though there is still only one real political party in the USSR, there are "groups" or "organizations" and Mr Yeltsin, who is a member of the Communist Party is also a member of the Democratic Russia Bloc challenging

I think that in my heart I am really more of a social democrat. But you are the first person I say this to'

certainly have a multi-party system formed from those splits." Will he lead one of these new parties? I asked. A small smile. "That is something I will tell you on the day after the end of the 28th party conference."

One wonders why on earth does he want to leave the Communist Party? He shrugs. This isn't clear. Upheaval must be avoided. Russians will muddle through to a multi-party system. Interestingly, certain words never appear in Mr Yeltsin's speech. He never talks of liberty and freedom, in the sense that Sakharov might. He does not talk of individual liberty. It is true he is neither a philosopher nor an abstract theoretician. But he is, after all, a reform politician. He wants private property and free enterprise but shies away from the radicalism of leaving socialism behind.

This is not an uncommon muddle. It is found among the British and Americans as well as Gorbachov. Everyone wants the benefits of free enterprise but not the costs. There is nothing wrong with trying to figure out a way to bring the costs down, of course. But what strikes me is that when you have a fundamental unwillingness to pay the price, and you



Sharing the pain: Boris Yeltsin says he could not bear to witness the indifference of the USSR's political masters to the anguish of the people when he was in the Politburo

'Yes, my weakness is in my vulnerability — brutal conversation makes a very deep impression on me'

somewhat imagine that you can have the benefits without cost, then you are either a western politician, or, as it turns out, an eastern one.

In his personal being, on the other hand, Mr Yeltsin is prepared to pay a lot of costs. All the royalties from his autobiography *Against the Grain* (to be published next week) are going to fight AIDS in the USSR. His agent claims that the advances total a £1 million. As well, Mr Yeltsin has given up almost all his perks as a member of the Soviet parliament. Many of his privileges went when he resigned from the Politburo — only the second person after Trotsky to have done so. "I have put myself in the position of an ordinary person," he explains. My mind begins to slacken at the phrases, but then as he talks, the passion becomes evident.

"The leadership lives some sort of life of its own and it doesn't feel the pain of the people and the cause of their suffering. This indifference was what I could not bear to hear when I was in the Politburo ... And there is something else I have finished with now. Yesterday, I sent a letter to the Supreme Soviet saying that I was giving up the car that I have at my personal use. For our country this is an absolutely incredible action and I shall not be thanked for it. I shall be called a traitor to all sides. Because in our country there are several millions of such cars."

In western terms it sounds affected, even sanctimonious, but one cannot deny his dignity. There is a moral certainty about him. It is wrong to have so much when so many have nothing. His actions could be seen as opportunistic gestures, to counter the bewigelled and bechauffered Gorbachovs. But, all the same, in themselves the gestures may be still right. Symbolism can mean a lot to a country in pain. The Royal Family had ration books in war.

A man is not all of a piece. Courage is often coterminous with cowardice and even moral conviction with expediency. For such reasons one shrinks from unequivocal conclusions. But then there seems to be something in the smell of Mr Yeltsin, in his being, that speaks of the best of Russian qualities. His autobiography shows first a stubborn child and then a wilful youth, constantly going

against his own interests. He is the pupil who forgoes his diploma at graduation in order to speak out about the teacher who humiliates students. He is the youth who plays cards with ex-convicts on the roof of a moving train and the state is his life. "I lose all my clothes and my grandfather's watch and then they tell me the next hand is to push me off the roof of the train."

At first, one can't help feeling that this is in the great Russian tradition of Gogol's *Post of the Lie*. But as one speaks to Mr Yeltsin, a certain instinct says that while he may slightly embellish, there is a hard core of truth in his being. Again and again in his conversation he speaks of his emotional anguish over the alienation between himself and Mr Gorbachov. This is not simply an ideological power struggle but, for Mr Yeltsin, a personal tragedy. "My weakness is my vulnerability. Yes, I am a very impressionable man and any exchange, any crude, brutal conversation makes a very deep impression on me. I feel it deeply and I think I need a little more ferro-concrete. I cannot listen with indifference when the Chairman of the

Supreme Soviet talks about pushing through his ideas. Demagogues. I can answer back and I never remain in debt. But at that particular moment I really do suffer."

It is to such a "crude and brutal conversation" with Mr Gorbachov that Mr Yeltsin attributes his much commented upon breakdown into tears on Soviet television some years ago. "I asked him about his wife, who provokes a great amount of disapproving bewilderment among the people. That provoked a very agitated reaction from him. I would say a reaction that was not really up to the situation or the subjects we were discussing. I had hoped that we would come to an understanding because a perception of our success abroad and in our country was based on a perception of convergence between the two of us. But it was in the course of that exchange that conversation, that I saw it was not likely to happen. I think I would say that even some of our moral values and principles are very different."

All these qualities, his gambling with life, his stubbornness, his physical pain at the plight of the Russian people, the

aching heart at the sight of injustice that he exemplifies when he renounces his privileges, all of this seems to have coincided in some mysterious way, almost osmotic, with the yearnings and the discontent and the essential muddled hopes of his people — the Russians, Armenia or Azerbaijan.

Would he give the republics total independence if they wanted it? "Yes," Mr Yeltsin replied.

Nationalism, I suppose, can be irrational, like love, although it is not a bad thing when channelled constructively. But what about the anti-Semitism which seemed associated with it in Russia?

It was happening, Mr Yeltsin said, but not as badly as portrayed. "But this fear that is being whipped up among Jews is to some extent artificially provoked. Matters are not as simple as they seem. Whether it has happened because of *Pomyar* [an extreme Russian nationalist, anti-Semitic group] or any other factors is questionable. I think it is absolutely essential for measures to douse the flames of what could become a raging fire."

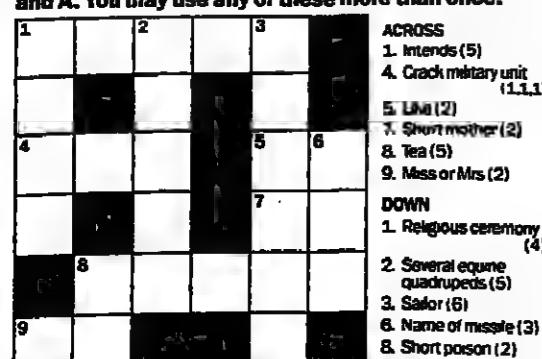
If one impression stayed with me of Mr Yeltsin, it was, curiously, not of his physical presence or his mobile face or his thoughts, but rather of a feeling of impending tragedy. He is optimistic. The autobiography will cause much uneasiness, he says, "and we can go very far with uneasiness even to the point of physical ..." His voice trailed off. "But a man must live like a great bright flame and burn as brightly as he can. In the end he burns out. But that is better than a mean little flame."

In *Tolstoy's War and Peace* one meets General Kutuzov, one of the two Russians who defeated Napoleon. Of course, Napoleon is the more brilliant general. Kutuzov seems to be the worse for wear and drink and with no great strategic muscle. But he is so much at one with the land and the people and their pain that it does not matter so long as he does not give up. If only he plays his life in accord with the dictates of the land and the mystery of the people's despair, he will win. It may be that Boris Yeltsin has this kind of oneness that Tolstoy ascribes to Kutuzov. Mikhail Gorbachov would underestimate it at peril.

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Could your wordpower get you into Mensa?

To solve this crossword, use only the letters M, E, N, S and A. You may use any of these more than once.



If you can solve this puzzle, you could be eligible to join Mensa, the high IQ society. Cut out the coupon for further details and a copy of the self-administered test. To: Mensa, FREEPOST, Wolverhampton WV2 1BR (no stamp required).

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Mensa

Take a quick dash around the hyphen

Hyphens are hell. I wish we could abolish the little brutes. So did Sir Winston Churchill. He wrote to Edward Marsh, the diligent and long-suffering civil servant who corrected the proofs of his literary works: "I am in revolt about your hyphens. One must regard the hyphen as a blemish to be avoided wherever possible."

Computer-setting often manages to break a word at the end of a line in an embarrassing place. Here are some recent specimens: the-ories, condom-inium, ther-apist, leg-end, man-slaughter, brains-panier, nosep-rint, shoul-er, bamboo-zle, lingerie. Such fractures can give a fellow a nasty shock over the marmalade, when his wins are still warming up for the day.

Unfortunately, we cannot do without the little brutes. They are signposts that are on

occasions essential, in order to

don hard grammar.

In general, there is no hyphen with a verb + preposition: run + through; run + into; see + through; for example, "He saw through the deception (or the flimsy neglige)". No hyphens are needed, thank goodness, in such stirring circumstances. A hyphen would be an error. No hyphens either with verbs + adverbs: "He saw through the ordeal." The problem arises when a verb is turned into a noun or an adjective, which, contrary to the whinges of *laudatores temporis acti*, a bloody event in the play in Brighton (no hyphen). But a run-in with the law.

Hyphens are needed with verbs that become nouns or adjectives, and then have modifying prepositions or

adjectives tied to them so closely that they are virtually one word. For example, verbs that have become nouns: a run-through, run-in, put-down, come-on, write-up. But once the word becomes "established", i.e. looks familiar, the hyphen tends to fade away as secretly and silently as the Cheshire Cat, for example breakdown, fallout. I wish that we could get rid of it in all of them. But I am not yet ready for a "comeon" or a "writeup". Here are some verbs that have been turned into adjectives with attached particles that need a hyphen to link them: see-through, a put-up skivvy, a put-up job, a sit-down strike. As with the nouns, once the linked word becomes established, it tends to drop the hyphens. The "rule" is that verbs seldom need a hyphen to link them to their attendant prepositions

and particles, but that nouns and adjectives that look like verbs may need hyphens for purposes of identification.

Hyphens are a minefield all over the grammar wars. The battle was hard fought; but a hard-fought battle. Her secret was well kept; but it was a well-kept secret. Are you ready for a "subtly-thought-out strategy"?

Little adverbs hyphen more easily than big ones. I won't put up with that; but a bravely put-up-with struggle. This is the dreaded verb + adverb + preposition problem, as in pass on to, sit across from, get through to, leave over from, make over to, go on with.

As Churchill might have scribbled, if he had not hated hyphens: "This is the sort of English that I find unputtable-up-with."

Philip Howard

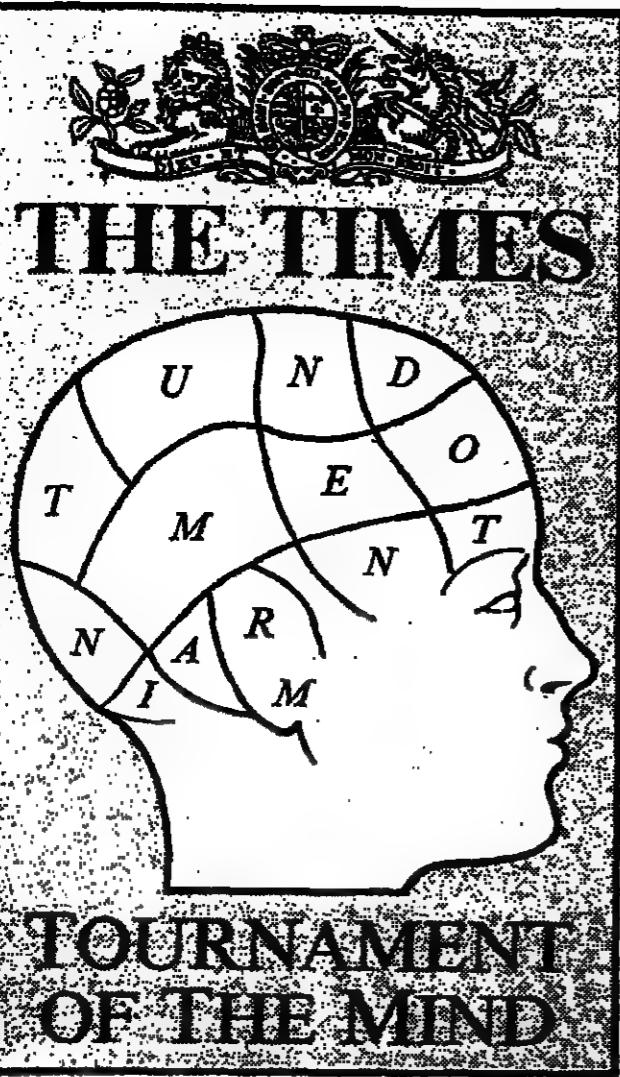
NEW WORDS FOR OLD



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SPECTRUM

Tournament of the Mind 1990



Our long-awaited annual trial of the intellect begins today with Round One. The rules and details of how to play will help you on that first step to £5,000

- The competition is open to all readers, both in the UK and the rest of the world.
- Each entry must be made on the original answer-coupons taken from *The Times*.
- No telephone queries will be accepted.
- The only reference works used are the *Collins English Dictionary* and *The Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Answers obtained from other sources will not be accepted.
- Only postal entries will be accepted.
- The competition is open to members of Mensa.
- Employees, and their families, of Mensa, News International and their agencies will not be permitted to enter the competition.
- No correspondence will be entered into and the Editor's decision is final.

SCHOOL TEAMS

- Where more than one team from a school is entered, photocopies of the answer coupons and address vouchers will be permitted.
- Each school entry must nominate a team leader whose name must be shown on the entry form.
- School entries must be clearly shown. Their entries must be sent to Mensa, clearly marking the envelope "Schools' Tournament".
- Schools can enter teams comprising up to 10 pupils.

HOW TO ENTER

- There will be 100 questions in total in the first 20 rounds, giving a maximum possible final score of 1,000 points.
- Entrants answer the questions each day only on the published coupons, and must send their coupons only at the end of the 20 rounds.

GEAR UP FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL TOURNAMENT WITH THOUSANDS OF MINDS FROM THE TIMES

If the past two years are any guide, thousands of contestants are set to arm themselves with dictionaries, encyclopedias and calculators to joust and tussle with squares, symbols, letters and numbers in *The Times* Tournament of the Mind. But only one will be the winner of the timed play-off final on May 14. Sir Terence Beckett, the former head of CBI and a Mensa member, will present the winner with £5,000 and the trophy based on Rodin's *The Thinker*. The winning school will receive a Hewlett Packard computer, a plaque and a certificate. Queues will form outside



Sir Terence to present prizes

the miscellaneous section of one of the sample questions was incorrect. But they had not realized that a diagonal in a grid could consist of two or

three squares and need not necessarily cross from one corner of the grid to the other.

Mr Andrew Johnston, last year's winner, is determined to defend his hard-won title this year but was willing to give a few tips to would-be contenders. "The key to the matter is defining precisely what the problem is. It is only when you have defined the problem that you can put in place an appropriate solution. Right from school, we are exhorted to make sure we read the question before we put in an answer."

Mr Harold Gale, executive director of Mensa, said:

"Eventually, most people

could break the formulae we use. For example, the verbal questions can be solved by anyone willing to read the dictionary through, similarly with general knowledge and the encyclopaedia. A lot of it is just sheer leg-work. Just use your common sense."

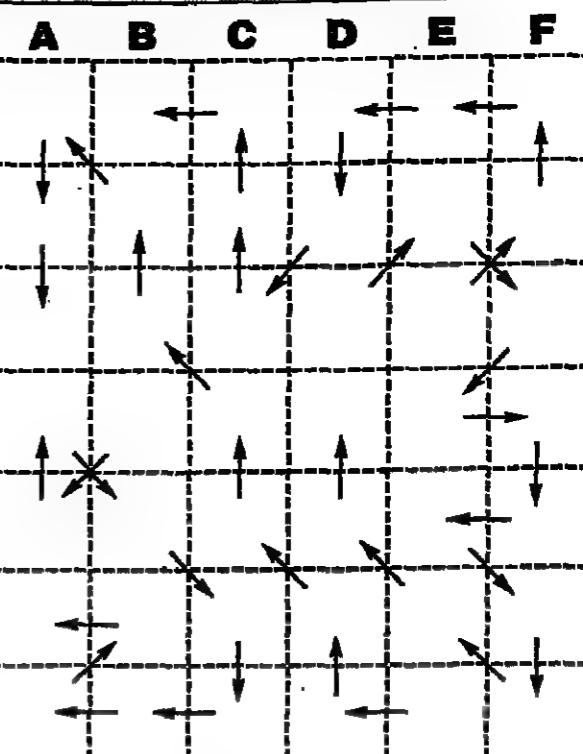
One pupil from last year's winning school team suggested making the most of individual strengths. Catherine Christie, aged 15, a pupil at Madras College, St Andrews, Fife, said: "The boys seemed slightly better at the logic and maths questions. The girls were more patient at looking through books."

Ruth Gledhill

Queues will form outside

1. DIAGRAMS

In the diagram, there are several strings of arrows of differing length. The arrows represent the direction you should move along each string. The longest string passes through the most squares. Which square contains the start of the first arrow in the longest string?



2. VERBAL

Can you solve this riddle?

My first is in ACHE but not in PAIN, My second is in ROAD but not in LANE, My third is in PEN and also in NIB, My fourth is in BONE but never in RIB, My fifth is in DAY and also in YEAR, My whole is a fool or even a fur

What am I?

3. LOGIC

Replace the question marks with three mathematical symbols so that the calculation is correctly completed

(117 ? 9) ? 4 ? 4 = 56

4. MATHS

A standard bath has two taps and a plug hole. One of the taps completely fills the bath in 15 minutes if the plug is in the hole, while the other takes 20 minutes to perform the same function. With a filled bath and the tap off, it takes 30 minutes to drain the bath. Assuming you have left both taps on and the plug out, how long will it take for the bath to be filled?

ROUND 1 - ANSWERS

Cut out your answers and keep this coupon until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons printed in *The Times*

PUZZLES	
Answer 1	Answer 2
Answer 3	Answer 4
MISCELLANY	
Answer 1	
Answer 2	
Answer 3	
Answer 4	Answer 5
NAME	

SIEMENS

Siemens Diagnostic Technology is vital... because HIV is no respecter of age.

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which leads to AIDS is not selective about its victims. It can strike both sexes and all ages; even the youngest children. That's why an effective cure is one of the greatest challenges facing medical science.

Siemens is working in close partnership with the Medical Research Council, the Radiological Research Trust and the Scottish AIDS Research Appeal on a research project to investigate the effects on babies and parents who carry the virus, together with other people affected by HIV. This national project is being undertaken in

Edinburgh where such problems are especially acute.

The new Siemens Magnetom body-scanner plays a key role in the project, with its non-invasive technology being particularly suitable for children.

It will be used to study the effects of the virus and to help to follow the results of treatment.

The scale and urgency of the problem demands an immediate fund-raising programme to enable further research to be carried out.

If you would like to contribute or find out how you can help, please contact Professor George du Boulay, CBE, at the Radiological Research Trust, 36 Portland Place, London W1N 3DG. Telephone 01-580 4085.



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TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

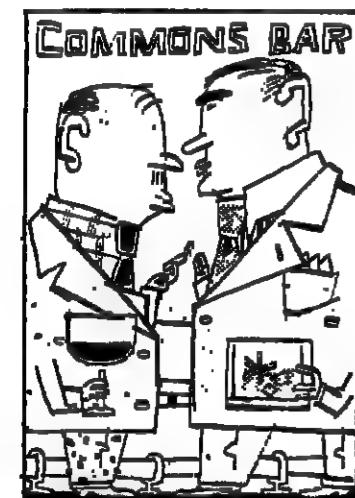
What will Peter Walker do with himself now that he has decided to quit the Cabinet and, eventually, his long-held Worcester seat? He has, of course, promoted the Fowlerism that he wants to spend more time with his family. But I wonder if such an energetic 57-year-old will be able to give up the political drug altogether. Might he, perhaps, become Michael Heseltine's campaign manager when the Tory leadership battle finally begins? He has often joked to friends that such would be his ambition, and considering how intertwined the two men's careers have been, the suggestion is not outrageous. Heseltine was deputy to Walker, Opposition transport spokesman, when they fought Barbara Castle's Transport Bill in 1968. When Walker became transport secretary in the Heath government, Heseltine was his aerospace minister. And when Mrs Thatcher dropped Walker in 1978 from the shadow cabinet, Heseltine was the loudest voice of dismay. Walker, in turn, has lauded Heseltine as a man of "energy and tenacity on the one hand and sympathy and understanding on the other".

This prospect would be more stimulating for Walker than teaming up with his old business partner Jim Slater, who long ago gave up high finance to write children's books, including *The Boy Who Saved Earth*. No, it's not a biography of Heseltine.

My French wildlife sources report another sighting of the celebrated Dordogne kangaroo, at large for several months now after apparently escaping from a travelling fair. According to a local woman, who has previously reported spotting the errant marsupial drinking from a stream, this time it was hopping across a road at dead of night. Mindful, no doubt, of the ridicule that greeted early sightings by Parisian holidaymakers — *lire mort* (dead drunk) was the local verdict — she has requested anonymity. The gendarmes are none the less taking this matter seriously enough to issue warnings about the dangers of tangling with wandering Australians.

Once again, at that satisfactory rugby encounter in Cardiff on Saturday, the Scots supporters sang *Flower of Scotland* as their national anthem. The Scottish Rugby Union tells me that it has been adopted, for this season only, as an experimental alternative to *God Save the Queen*. Both, to my ear, are more suited to funerals than to stirring the troops for battle. Whatever is wrong with *Scotland the Brave*, Insufficiently gloomy for the Celtic temperament, I suppose.

BARRY FANTONI



'At least the importance of the family has got through to her Cabinet'

A deluge of responses to my offer of a Glengoyne 17-year-old single malt whisky for the six best attempts at writing John Major's Budget speech. No entry, sadly, from the man himself, probably because my structure of a maximum 100 words would defeat any chancellor. A bottle of Scottish gold from the Campsie Hills to Watson Weeks of Irato for:

"I propose a swinging tax on Budget speeches exceeding 20 minutes, and on party political broadcasts displaying insufferable complacency. Banks employing ex-chancellors at inflated salaries will be obliged to cancel all charges to customers, thus reducing profits to figures that the average layman can understand. Any Cabinet minister or business tycoon who uses the term 'politics of envy' will forfeit two-thirds of his salary to a charitable fund providing prizes for literary competitions. The duty on wine will be greatly reduced, the revenue shortfall being made up by the Government department responsible for advertising water."

And another to Michael Abbott of Ramsgate for: "I turn to Inheritance Tax. The Government has now realized the terrible waste of resources, both ecological and in the costs of pensions and services, in living too long. I propose to initiate measures which will go some way towards reversing this unfortunate trend. The basis of Inheritance Tax will be altered so that it starts at a zero rate at retirement age and then increases annually at a rate of two per cent. This should provide great encouragement [Government cheers]."

More winners later this week.

Last Thursday, I made my professional acting debut. I made it at the Cottesloe Theatre, because at my age the trick is to start big. There is no point mucking about in local rep, years of hobbling in and out muttering "There is a young person at the door, madame," and waiting for the chance to play Osnard.

I had not been on a stage for 42 years. 1948 was when I made my amateur debut, in the Mr Hoskyns adaptation of *Hiawatha*. The audition were pretty tough: your mother had to know where to lay her hands on a chicken, no easy task in the Attree years. What mine could mainly lay her hands on was mince or shin, neither of which made much of a war bonnet. Anyway, she managed to get a little pullet and I managed to get a little role. I had to come to and scan the horizon for the sort of things redskins scan the ho-

According to the pink pundits (and some who ought to know better), Mrs Thatcher and Britain under her leadership are isolated, alone and out of step. Last Friday I heard it said by Mr Hattersley, who has an unrivalled reputation for believing what he says as opposed to saying what he believes. There has been, he said, a great sea change in the British national mood away from Thatcherism and towards something rather warm and cuddly, which, perhaps for fear of ridicule, he did not name as either Kinnockism or socialism.

If Mr Hattersley were right, Britain would indeed be out of step, facing down the socialist path while almost every country in the world that has trod that ruinous road has turned back towards market economics, capitalism and neo-Thatcherism. Labour's so-called intellectuals cannot understand that it is not the clapped-out socialist East Germany that about to annex capitalist West Germany, to save it from poverty and repression, but the other way around. The crisis of capitalism is about funding the economic and environmental reconstruction of economies ravaged by socialism.

The adverse polls last week

gave sterling the jitters, so it is safe to assume that the likelihood, let alone the actuality of a Labour government, would force an increase in interest rates to protect the pound. So a new

Labour chancellor would face an early increase in mortgage rates, and rising import prices pushing up the cost of living. If the pound were outside the EC exchange rate mechanism, the devaluation would be swift and sharp. Otherwise, Labour's first international humiliation would be the negotiation of a massive devaluation.

Meanwhile, the government would be receiving bills for a political support operation by the trade unions which would make the alleged support of Guinness shares during the takeover bid look small beer indeed. First to come in would be the IOUs signed by Messrs Meacher, Prescott, Straw, Cunningham, Field, Hattersley and Kinnock, promising substantial gains to workers in the National Health Service, local government, education and transport.

These would be followed by

many more. Pensioners, having been told they have been swin-

music is clear and consistent: only Mrs Thatcher prevents everyone (except of course the rich) from having more and better of everything. Only she causes health service queues, pollution, illegitimacy, personal debt, floods, traffic jams, railway accidents, poverty, homelessness, drug abuse, and — they might add — dandruff and bad breath to boot.

It is based on the theory of economic management by the incantations of magic spells: some old, such as incomes policy and credit control, some new, such as the exchange rate mechanism, the social charter and monetary union. Past experience suggests that belief in such spells can be sustained only by resort to economic hallucinogens such as exchange controls and subsidies, which, with their short-term effects, are to the European Community what steroids are to the Olympics.

Happily, I doubt that Labour

will be put to the test. The

electors are saying they want to

pay less, not more, for local

government and for national

government too. The anger over

the rising cost of our town halls.

High taxation and high public

expenditure are not popular; that

is a polters' myth. The Nineties

may be different to the Eighties,

but the voters are the same. Real

net disposable income will be the

master key, as it was in 1979,

1983 and 1987. Put that right,

John Major, and all will be well.

Norman Tebbit on the high cost of rejecting the Tories

Labour's crippling IOUs

the restoration of union immunity from actions in tort, more and thicker layers of government.

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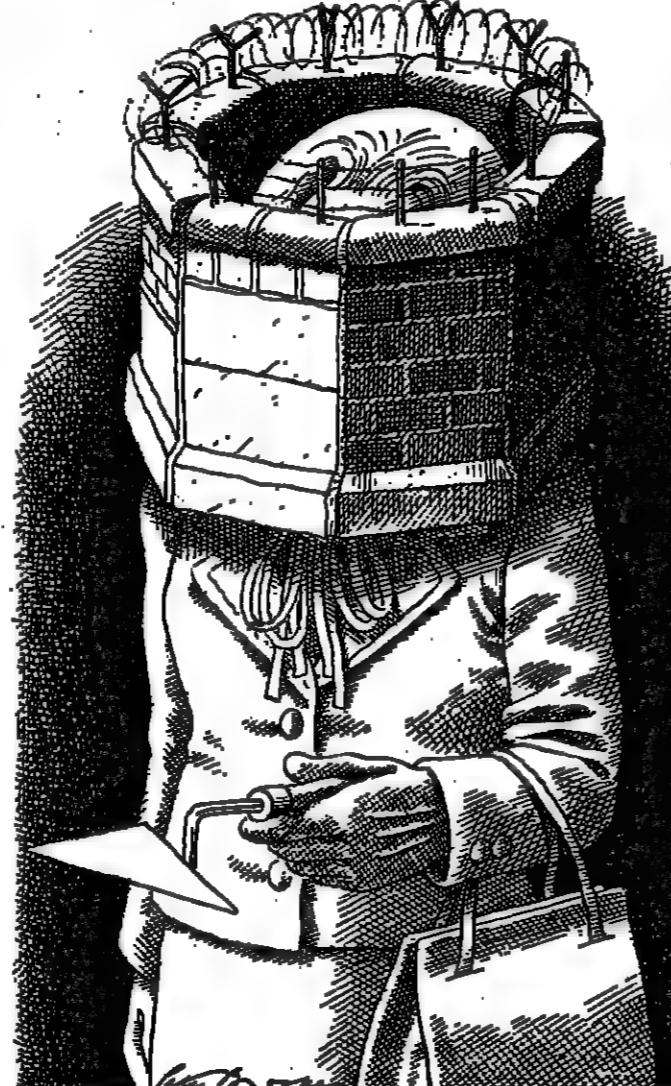
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Wall of suspicion Britain must raze

David Selbourne, just back from Germany, begins a three-part series with an appeal for greater sympathy for Bonn's objectives



because we continue to hear "German arrogance" when plain truth is being told us, and still see in every "good German" a potential recidivist with jackboots under his trousers. Moreover, in the recent period, Germans are themselves aware — has given many hostages to fortune, above all, with his alarming ambiguities on the Polish border question.

At the same time, bewilderingly, the Germans profess themselves to be sensitive to the alarms of others. Overweening at one moment, they are ready at the next to concede that our suspicions of them are well-founded. As Horst Teutschik put it: "If some Germans themselves have difficulties over reunification, why shouldn't our neighbours?" But in the Federal Republic it is only the Greens, isolated individuals like the novelist Günter Grass, and spokesmen for the small Jewish community who continue to sound the old tocsin, and to frighten us — and themselves — about the past and the future.

These reflexes, morally justified as they are, will no longer do politically. The Federal Republic is an educated, hard-working and civilized society, built on a chameleonic house of millions, yet (the old dilemma) educated, civilized and European none the less, arguably more, educated and civilized, and certainly more European, than we are.

"You cannot hold up reunification now, and we don't want to stand against it," Ignaz Bubis,

leader of the 500-strong Jewish community of Frankfurt, told me. "It is better that Britain, France or Poland take up such a position." In December, he heard crowds in Leipzig shouting "Wir sind ein Volk!" Was he scared? "Not yet," he replied.

Siegfried Heym, the elderly

doyen of East German

writers and for years a

friend in the Stalinist hide

of the GDR, was much more

forthright. "Kohl and the CDU,"

he said to me fiercely, "are the

nucleus of a new kind of German

imperialism. It will swallow

East Germany from its impoverishment and disillusion. Moreover,

if we have been nothing, we are complete unknowns. We know, however, that we will have to pay for our own future as Germans, though we would like help from others," declared the leading German industrialist, Otto Wolff von Amerongen.

Indeed, the lack of triumphalism and jingoistic flag-waving in West Germany about the turn of events is striking and shames some of our anti-Teuton paranoia. It is often said that the West Germans never felt much sense of nationalist identification with the artifice of the Federal Republic; no more than the East Germans felt for their bogus "democracy of workers and peasants". Certainly there is not much ground yet for anticipating a rebirth of the old Aryan arbores.

Instead, the anxious talk in Bonn is of the burdens which will now fall on West German shoulders.

"It will bring us a great deal of social and economic difficulty, even hardship, in the next few years. What it will cost us are complete unknowns. We know, however, that we will have to pay for our own future as Germans, though we would like help from others," declared the leading German industrialist, Otto Wolff von Amerongen.

These are hardly the accents of a new Pax Germanica in the making, but the sound of something duly reassuring of sleeves being rolled up (and not all that willingly) to help redeem East Germany from its impoverishment and disillusion. Moreover, if we have been nothing, we are complete unknowns. We know, however, that we will have to pay for our own future as Germans, though we would like help from others," declared the leading German industrialist, Otto Wolff von Amerongen.

This is not the politics of Teutonic revival. Indeed, we have been more sensitive to German dilemmas and feelings, our own responses to the German Question might have been more rational. We also might have made less of our "bitter memories", entitled to them as we are, and made more of the urgent need to adapt to national purposes, in our own interests, to those of the powerful enemy we once vanquished.

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David Selbourne's new book,

Death of the Dark Hero: Eastern Europe 1987-90, will be published next month by Cape.

John Sanders

Teaching by rulebook

Many reasons have been advanced for teachers' low morale: poor pay, shortage of resources, pupil indiscipline, unsuitable and shabby buildings. While all these play a part, none is so important as loss of status and respect. A teacher is now less likely to be command respect than to be pitied as someone who cannot find a better job.

When I started teaching, 40 years ago, pay was low and working conditions were poor, yet many teachers produced excellent results. They had dignity and self-respect, and were respected by the communities they served. And they were, first and foremost, teachers.

After a 10-year break, I recently returned to work as a supply teacher, and immediately noticed the growth of bureaucracy and administration. In the staffroom, piles of paper were everywhere, course particulars, information on schemes of work, pamphlets, booklets, sheets, records. The noticeboard was crammed with details of meetings and in-service seminars. Each day, more papers arrived, more notices were posted. In the classroom, the teacher's desk was submerged under piles of handbooks, brochures and articles. The school seemed to be drowning in a sea of words.

Many of these words have been generated by the introduction of the National Curriculum. Although this is badly needed and should do wonders for standards, the way it is being implemented is proving a great burden to the conscientious teacher. The proposals for English alone occupy more than 70 closely printed pages, covering in minute detail every aspect of the subject, its teaching and assessment.

One gets the impression that teachers are so little trusted that everything they do in class must be set out for them. The assessments require detailed analysis of each pupil's progress, not just in components of a subject (for example, in reading as a part of English), but in "strands" of the component. A typical "strand" in the assessment of reading at Level 5 (about age 11) is "Recognize, in discussion, whether subject matter in non-literary and media texts is presented as fact or opinion."

When children reach Level 8 (at age 14), teachers must assess whether each of them can "Express a point of view on a complex subject cogently and with clarity, and interpret alternative viewpoints with accuracy and discrimination."

Continuous assessment, which in effect means assessment during lessons, is needed to evaluate pupils' progress in the many "strands". When it is recognized that in a lesson each child in an average class can expect about one minute of a teacher's individual attention, the problem becomes apparent. There are other worries, too. For example, there is the teaching of English grammar by young teachers who may have had little formal language training in their own education. Then there are standard assessment tests to be administered, marked and mod-

erated. When is all this to be done? I have been told by several teachers that because of the difficulty of finding the time for detailed reports, they assess impressionistically and then adjust the marks accordingly.

Meetings make up a large part

of the teacher's workload. A senior teacher in a school for 1,750 pupils regularly attends year-teachers' meetings, house meetings, meetings of subject teachers, meetings with local employers, parents' meetings and management meetings. Then there are "sanctions" meetings, at which staff discuss the school's policy towards pupils who break the rules, and "options" meetings for third-year and fifth-year pupils and their parents. Last year there were six of these, one being repeated because it was held during the Hindu festival of Diwali when Indian families were unable to attend. Each Monday pupils are released at 2.45 pm so that staff can meet until (nominally) 4.30. There are times when a teacher has a meeting every night of the week.

Teachers still have their routine paper-work to keep up: lesson preparation, marking and assessment reports, and the compilation of pupil profiles (documents on each pupil in each subject, which are given to secondary-school pupils at the end of their fifth year).

This is by no means the end of the story. Cross-consultation with other subject teachers in order to correlate subject content is necessary. Checking projects, writing testimonials for university applicants, pastoral work, liaison with other schools — the list goes on and on.

The burden of excessive administration can and should be lightened. As in West Germany, schools should have a clearly defined and limited role, with the stress placed heavily on pupils' academic development. Full or part-time social workers should be attached to schools — as some have nurses — to deal with pastoral work. With access to pupil records, they could take over most of the burden now borne by teachers.

The proposals for the National Curriculum should be returned to new committees with a much larger proportion of serving teachers as members. The responsibility for the way subjects are taught in the classrooms should be placed fairly and squarely on the head teacher. The didactic elements which abound in publications about the National Curriculum must be removed; it is not the function of these committees to tell teachers how to teach. Also, assessment must be simplified: proposals for the teaching of English, for example, should be no more than 25 pages.

At present, the sheer volume of administration is overwhelming teachers, and it is no wonder morale has plummeted. These reforms would free them to do the one thing most teachers want to do: teach.



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A MAJOR TEST OF NERVE

The fall in the pound, which accelerated yesterday, puts new pressure on the Chancellor, Mr John Major, as he prepares for his first Budget a fortnight today. A drop of nearly 3 per cent in the value of the currency during the past eight days is not the kind of vote of confidence any Chancellor wants at this stage.

To some extent sterling has been suffering in the backwash of movements in other currencies. As the dollar rose last week the pound fell further than most. And as the central banks made their concerted attack to try to reverse the trend — an attack yesterday joined by the Bank of England with sales of dollars for pounds — sterling did not recover with the mark.

But it is clear that although the main focus in foreign exchange markets is on the dollar, sterling is suffering independently of movements in other currencies. The explanation is largely political. Discontent with the poll tax has overflowed the boundaries of Westminster and is seeping corrosively into financial markets. With each new opinion poll seeming to give Labour a bigger lead, holders of sterling are beginning to ask whether there is now enough time before the next general election for Mrs Thatcher to pull the Tories' chestnuts out of the fire.

Concern is not entirely confined to political factors. The gradually rising forecasts as to how high the peak for inflation will rise later this year largely reflect statistical factors rather than underlying inflationary pressure. Higher mortgage rates and the introduction of the poll tax, though they will raise the retail price index, will not of themselves be inflationary — quite the reverse — and to that extent they are less worrying than a rise in the underlying rate. But there is still sufficient uncertainty about the trend in the economy to be unsettling.

Although much of the rise in the trade deficit in January was explicable by special factors, recent trends in imports do not suggest that the

consumer has lost all ambition. Yesterday's consumer credit figures for January show the biggest ever monthly increase in borrowing on credit cards — only a small proportion of total borrowing by the personal sector, but still a move in the wrong direction.

There is no need at this stage for the Government to consider raising interest rates again. At 8.7 in terms of the Bank of England's effective rate index, sterling is still above the lowest levels it reached, just before the new year, after the resignation of the former Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson. If it was right not to raise interest rates then it is right not to raise them now, especially as mortgage rates have caught up with base rates in the meantime. The balance of evidence still suggests that the economy is slowing down and underlying inflationary pressures subsiding, in short that high interest rates are doing the job expected of them.

Weakness in sterling does, however, reinforce the case for a cautious Budget. An extraordinary argument is being advanced in foreign exchange markets that the Government should be wary of raising taxes because that would suggest that counter-inflationary endeavour had switched from monetary to fiscal policy. Markets would conclude that interest rates were about to be cut and would sell sterling accordingly. This carries the absurd implication that fiscal prudence has a perverse effect and pays no dividends in the fight against inflation. But Mr Major has made it as clear as he can that interest rates will stay high for some time. They are most unlikely to come down while sterling is weak.

The Chancellor should frame his Budget on the sound principle that fiscal policy should support, not replace, monetary policy. What precisely that should mean for the size of the Budget surplus next year will be the product of many different influences. It is most unlikely to mean a net cut in taxation.

ANXIETY IN AFRICA

South Africa's whites will take comfort from Mr Nelson Mandela's assurance, repeated in Harare this week, that they should not fear black vengeance in a non-racial society. Their anxieties, however, have less to do with physical vengeance than with another, more insidious, form of retribution: the confiscation of the country's wealth by a post-apartheid government anxious to prove that political freedom bears instant economic fruit. Those fears will not have been lessened by Mr Mandela's endorsement of Zimbabwe as a suitable model for South Africa.

Although it is true that Mr Robert Mugabe has yet to put his Marxist beliefs into practice, the mere fact that he holds them has been enough to frighten off any serious foreign investment in Zimbabwe and to deny it the wherewithal to create employment for its educated but jobless young. Nor is Mr Mugabe alone in clinging to a dead and discredited creed. There are enough true believers in the ANC and in the members and advisers of South Africa's black trade unions to suggest that the battle over its future will be decided not by a new South African constitution, but by the debate over its economic culture.

Since Mr Mandela's ritualistic embrace of nationalization sent shivers down the spine of South African businessmen and international investors, other ANC spokesmen have been careful to soft pedal their intentions. Thus they have implied that the re-distribution of South Africa's limited wealth — or to put it more realistically, the reallocation of poverty — could take other less obviously draconian forms. Ignoring the lessons of recent history, the ANC and its advisers talk blithely about the virtues of central economic planning in determining the allocation of resources and of investment decisions subjected to the "collective self-conscious". They also insist that in Eastern Europe it was not the idea that failed, but the people who failed the idea.

THE LIBYAN CONNECTION

The allegations now being directed at Mr Arthur Scargill concerning money said to have come from Libya to support the miners' strike of 1984-85 are a salutary reminder of an insidious episode in trade union history that should not be forgotten. But it has more importance than that.

Much of what is now in the public eye was, it is true, current knowledge at the time. Thus a *Sunday Times* investigation in November 1984 revealed that Mr Scargill was present at a meeting with a Libyan emissary in Paris, when it was arranged that a then union official, Mr Roger Windsor, should visit Tripoli at the height of the strike. Mr Scargill himself claimed that this meeting at the headquarters of the French trade union organization CGT, was solely to do with a food convoy being dispatched by the French unions and that his encounter with the Libyan was purely accidental.

On the other hand, there is no doubt that it was at this meeting that Mr Windsor's visit to Colonel Gaddafi was arranged, a visit which was much publicized after it took place. The Libyan leader had it video-recorded and televised, including the notorious embrace between himself and the British miners' representative. Deep resentment was caused in Britain so soon after the wanton murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher by a bullet from the Libyan Embassy.

What needs particular inquiry now is Mr Windsor's reported statement that the meeting led to a gift of £163,000 (in banknotes) from Libya, and that Mr Scargill and the NUM's other full-time national official used some of the money to pay off "personal debts". Mr Scargill said yesterday that these allegations were "nothing but vicious lies". At the time, Mr Norman Willis said that he had Mr Scargill's assurance that no financial support had been, or would be, sought or received from Libya.

Now Mr Scargill has again categorically

denied receiving any money from any sources in Libya during or since the strike. He states that if any money did come from Libya, the union officials were unaware of it. Likewise, he asserts that no money "donated" for union members or hardship purposes was used for the personal needs of national officials."

Even so, the matter needs further impartial inquiry, especially, perhaps, in the light of claims by other former union officials that union members were left uninformed about the use made of £1 million apparently received from the Soviet Union. That such money was arranged seems not to be in doubt since Mr McGahey, the then president of the Scottish NUM, openly named himself as the link for the receipt of £1,138,000 from Soviet trade unions.

Once again the inquiries of the press into a matter of public concern underline the importance of ensuring that the protection of individual's privacy should not impede inquiry into matters of genuine public importance; it is a point of which the Calcutta committee on privacy, and its violation by newspapers, should take due account.

More immediately, it is significant that these allegations, whatever their substance, do not constitute an attack on Mr Scargill by the "Tory press." They come from union officials who have been directly involved and their case has been deployed in particular detail by the Labour-supporting *Daily Mirror*.

In an editorial comment, its proprietor, Mr Robert Maxwell, points to the damage Mr Scargill and his colleagues did to the miners whom he describes (in the words of a German general used of the British forces in the First World War) as "lions led by donkeys". If anything like the allegations now made were true, "donkeys" is altogether too benign a word to apply to the miners' leaders. For its own honour, the TUC should seek to commission a wholly independent inquiry and publish the full findings.

Political puzzles and the poll tax

From the Leader of Milton Keynes Borough Council

Sir, Following on the reservations from other authorities which have already been expressed about community charge in your column (February 27; March 1) may I point out the following few points which relate to Milton Keynes Borough Council.

The standard spending assessment (SSA) fails to accommodate growth in the expenditure needed for a growing population. Milton Keynes is the fastest-growing district in the country and it is 38 per cent over its current SSA, which is £13,933,000. On closer examination, however, this can be seen to be due to two factors —

1. Population figures are calculated on the June, 1988, status in a city which has grown by 9.7 per cent, or 20,000, since that date, and this should qualify for an extra £1.2 million on the SSA.

2. The variable in the formula which is intended to be the measure sensitive to growth is that which measures capital debt. The SSA assumes that Milton Keynes' capital debt is just under £9 million. It is virtually £35 million — a Whitehall miscalculation of over 400 per cent, i.e. £3.5 million, when translated into a political virtue of promoting "accountability".

Its double penalty on empty or second homes, whence there are either no calls, or less calls than usual, upon community services, adds illogicality to inequity. Its effects on small business are likely to be profoundly damaging.

In the light of this and other avoidable tactical errors and reverses the generals have nobody but themselves to blame if their troops' morale is at a low ebb. Exhortation alone is not enough to restore it.

Yours faithfully,
B. RUSSELL-JONES,
Baracott, Long Compton,
Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire.

From the Reverend

Dr John T. Watson
Sir, What I find disquieting about this rumpus over the poll tax is the general concern there appears to be over the so-called unfairness, while some of us, living alone and on small pensions, hardly earned, have for years been paying more than double what presently we shall be doing.

Yours sincerely,
SAM CROOKS, Leader
(Liberal Democrat),
Milton Keynes Borough Council,
Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.
March 2.

From Mr B. Russell-Jones
Sir, In his article, "Storms today" (February 27), Woodrow Wyatt seeks to rally the Tory troops, exhorting them to "rescue

Radio franchises

From Mr Ian Woolf
Sir, Jocelyn Hay's letter (February 27) prompts me to write. The importance of radio in commercial terms may be judged by the interest which the prospect of these new stations has aroused among a number of entrepreneurs. This suggests that substantial audiences are also likely to be

For this reason, and if we are to avoid creating a series of mere juke-boxes on the American model, it is essential that arrangements be made to maintain proper standards of broadcasting.

There has been much talk of a Southern African Marshall Plan, but a world taken up by the more interesting claims of Eastern Europe is unlikely to keep a socialist South Africa alive with development aid. What is now necessary is to convince South Africa's have-nots that their expectations can best be met by the continued creation of wealth rather than a division of its diminishing spoils. As it moves towards political negotiation, Pretoria should be encouraged to release funds tied up in its swollen defence budget and the administration of apartheid to improve the lives of its black citizens — to upgrade their education and welfare services and, most important of all, to give them access to capital and to property.

Even then, its ability to ease the plight of South Africa's black poor will continue to be hampered by sanctions. Because of the oil embargo, billions of rand which could be used for black development remain tied up in huge and unnecessary oil reserves. South Africa is also unique among developing nations in being compelled to maintain a balance of payments surplus and curtail growth while denied access to the International Monetary Fund.

So long as Mr Mandela calls for continued sanctions, however, much of the world will remain deaf to more reasoned arguments. The removal of these constraints, together with the insistence that the benefits flow directly to black South Africa, would remove at a stroke the need for massive development aid and blunt the desire of the poor and the deprived for the illusory remedies of socialism.

Yours faithfully,
IAN WOOLF,
Institute of Directors,
116 Pall Mall, SW1.

Broadcasting values

From Mr J. B. Donnelly

Sir, Barbara Amiel's column (February 23) admirably demonstrates that it is no easier to draw up value-free questionnaires than it is to produce value-free broadcasting.

Perhaps she and Lord Wyatt, like Brian Redhead, should try every day for a year. We could then judge fairly who has come closest to her ideal. But I fear that the price of perfect balance, whether for *Today* or Barbara Amiel's column, would be boredom — and that would be no bargain.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN DONNELLY,
Delyianni 30, 145 62 Kifissia,
Athens, Greece.

Help for hedgehogs

From Mr A. H. Coles

Sir, I was pleased to read (report, February 15) of the thoughtful action of the builders of the new £40 million road at Bingley, West Yorkshire, in providing an underground pipe for such wild animals as toads and hedgehogs to get to the other side. This is a splendid example of how we should all be

My society publishes information of other ways of ensuring that the hedgehog can live relatively unperturbed by major developments such as motorways. Another example is by providing one sloping side to cattle-grid pits to enable any wild animal to crawl to safety should it fall in.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. COLES (Founder),
British Hedgehog Preservation
Society,
Knowbury House, Knowbury,
Ludlow, Shropshire.

Soviet reshuffle

From Mrs Lesley Bright

Sir, For Mr Mynt's (February 27) information, Vodka Gorbochov was alive and well and on sale in Bavaria last week.

Yours sincerely,
LESLEY BRIGHT,
Greenstones, Rookery Way,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fourth Estate in Eastern Europe

From Mr George Fischer

Sir, Your portmanteau treatment of the press in central and Eastern Europe in today's leader (March 1) does less than justice to the peculiarities of the countries concerned.

A mushrooming of the daily newspapers and journals there has certainly been, but of the 400 publications you refer to in Hungary well over 100 have ceased publication and during the past 12 months or so the majority of the daily papers and periodicals have been selling fewer copies.

There are about 30 daily national and regional newspapers and some 50 weeklies and journals available at news-stands. The highly successful ones include the tabloid daily *Mal Nap* ("Today") and the weekly *Reform*, of which 50 per cent in each case is owned by Mr Rupert Murdoch.

Mr Robert Maxwell, too, is part of the Hungarian press scene, but has done less well. He owns 45 per cent of the daily *Magyar Hiradap* ("Magyar Gazette"), which is heavily indebted.

The inevitable price of a free press has been the massive growth of a wide range of porn magazines. Some are glossy and very expensive. Their publishers are reputed to be among the *nouveaux riches* of Hungarian society.

The Fourth Estate in central and Eastern Europe, just like the rest of the body politic, finds itself in financially harsh and politically unfamiliar circumstances.

Those who provide illumination and pleasure will survive and prosper. They will also assist their readers to establish a democratic state, with or without Western help.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE FISCHER,
6c Highland Road,
Kent, March 1.

From Dr George Baracs

Sir, I spent the better part of the last 10 weeks in Budapest assisting in launching a joint venture for publishing one of the prestigious daily papers in Budapest aimed at making the paper better informed, livelier, but first and foremost independent.

I can testify from personal experience to every word in your leading article and I am happy to mention that the otherwise excellent editorial staff of the Hungarian paper will be trained in this country in the use of modern hardware which is to be delivered to Hungary as part of the British investment in the joint venture.

It is equally true (however sad it is) that the papers are lacking not only modern equipment but also the management skills "needed to survive in what are becoming highly competitive markets".

During the old regime in Hungary (I left it only after the revolution in January, 1957) one of the favourite topics of the brainwashing exercises was how to emulate the "socialist Soviet man".

The difficulties of *perestroika* show that the Stalinists were quite successful in the creation of that type of man — totally lacking in initiative, avoiding taking any responsibility, and waiting for commands from higher authorities even in the most trivial pursuits. They partly succeeded in Hungary as well.

It is easier to find 10 talented editors-in-chief than one businessman to act as a successful manager, making the paper self-supporting. In my humble view one of the most immediate tasks for the West is to train the new generation of Eastern Europe in management skills.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE BARACS,
Mishcon de Reya (Solicitors),
125 High Holborn, WC1.

(English, maths, science, modern language, and a practical subject?), thus acknowledging the different strengths of different individuals, even at 14? This would, incidentally, also ensure maximum choice for children, parents, and schools.

Yours faithfully,
TATIANA MACAIRE,
President,
Girls' Schools Association,
130 Regent Road, Leicester.
February 28.

Student loans

From Mr S. Dobney

Sir, Contrary to the views of some of your readers (letters, February 26) the argument for loans against grants has not been won. In fact, neither are a very good solution to a pressing problem. It is the employers who demand that students study to gain skills comparable with their talent. Yet these very employers take the training given by the colleges for free, merely paying a marginally higher wage to the students.

Perhaps the misguided dichotomy of loans vs. grants should be expanded to encompass the very people demanding more graduates. Indeed, should businesses not pay colleges for training the people they later employ?

Yours respectfully,
S. DOBNEY,
219 Northfield Avenue,
Ealing, W13.

As far as the actual acquisition is concerned, a rapid resolution is now clearly necessary, and Mr Rothschild's scheme requires nothing more than Treasury willingness to accept a major artistic masterpiece to be retained by the nation rather than the equivalent amount of all too expendable cash.

Mr Ridley's way of thinking, so far as I understand its implications, has excellent potentialities, but could (as has been rightly pointed out) lead to abuses. It accordingly requires more time for careful consideration than is available for dealing with the immediate problem of settling the fate of Canova's sculpture.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MAHON,
33 Cadogan Square, SW1.

From Mr Frank Watson

Sir, On the reverse of every driver's licence issued by the province of Ontario, Canada, is printed a form of consent under the Ontario Human Tissue Act, for transplant, treatment, or medical research of a) any needed organ or tissue; b) only the organs or tissue specified; or c) the entire body if needed.

There is a space to show the donor's age and boxes are provided in which to indicate what may be removed.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK WATSON,
38 Plantation Road,

• SOME REVIEWS MAY BE REPRINTED
FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

Current shockers

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

Monday having been designated current-affairs night on television, a decision which must go back to the BBC's scheduling of *Panorama* there some time in the middle 1950s, three major documentaries were scheduled last night (plus, of course, *Central TV's Cook Report Special*, which has made front-page, not arts-page news). All were alarming in the stories they told of democracy in decay all over the world.

Panorama (BBC 1) itself came closest to home with Jane Corbin's investigation of the Police Complaints Commission. At a time when there is an unprecedented public crisis of confidence in the wake of the Guildford Four case, the break-up of the West Midlands Crime Squad and the Wapping report, police are still demanding the rights to investigate complaints against themselves, and refusing, in some cases, to suspend officers who have been shown to falsify evidence.

Families told of midnight raids, mistaken arrests, blackmail used to solicit statements - while Peter Lambert, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, admitted that officers are "still hiding behind the system". Lord Scarman called for the complete abolition of the Commission but, faced with mounting allegations of malpractice, there still seems to be remarkably little achieved in the way of tougher sanctions or public policy dimensions.

World in Action (ITV) went further afield, to the small Romanian town of Focşan deep in the Moldavian plains, where two months after Ceausescu's death they found a nightmarish of bureaucratic muddle and betrayed idealism. While the revolutionary victors tried to carve democracy out of a dictatorship, food queues are growing longer, the old villains are regaining power by default, and the new leaders are unable to sort out the chaos of a political system in transition, leaving the people too shell-shocked to benefit and the system itself ripe for a counter-revolution that grows more chillingly possible by the day.

On Channel Four, *Cutting Edge* turned to South Africa, where four white anti-Apartheid brothers have been charged mysteriously with the destruction of their own property. The white community has isolated and bankrupted the Watson brothers but it cannot even now defeat their liberalism: democracy appears to be surviving under pressure in South Africa and Romania, though perhaps not in a British police station.

Dance into the future

ROCK

Alasdair Crewe

Johnny Clegg

and Savuka

Hammersmith Odeon

Johnny Clegg offers living proof that it is possible to become an international success without making it big in the UK. Though his intoxicating blend of traditional Zulu styles and rock music has already given him platinum albums and number one singles in most parts of the world, such success has so far eluded him in Britain, despite his building up a dedicated following through his celebratory live shows.

Fittingly for the last European dates of a grueling world tour, the hall was packed with dancing bodies on both nights, as Clegg led the seven-piece band through a selection of material from

Enchanted grandeur

CONCERT

Noel Goodwin

Philharmonia/Giulini
Festival Hall

A need to end all four movements of Brahms's Third Symphony softly and at a moderate tempo has never been the problem for Carlo Maria Giulini that it has for some conductors.

He found an exact way of reaching so quiet a resolution of big-scale symphony argument in a masterly performance with The Philharmonia, at the start of a programme he will give again here tomorrow.

There was immense dignity and a little passion as the work was finished with a measured and rhythmic poise that denied nothing of grandeur to the outer movements, yet could make the Andante seem almost like a lullaby.

Separate instrumental strands

could slide through a richness of texture that seemed to take on a quite different balance by having the violins on the platform seated outside the cellos.

Reasoned symphonic discussion was followed in the second part by fairy-tale enchantment, in two gorgeously coloured tapestries hung side by side. Translucent subtlety of instrument shading brought a shimmering beauty to Ravel's *Mother Goose* suite though it could be thought envied of any conductor, in Britain in March, to programme this in and risk the disruption of its fabric by a breakistic audience.

The *Festival* has a sturdier texture, and the six panels that make up Stravinsky's 1919 suite from the ballet were here balanced between sharply accented rhythms and liaison grace of phrasing, the finales of this and of Ravel achieving a glowing grandeur. After each suite the orchestral soloists were deservedly given separate calls, though in fact the ensemble counted no less.

This final scene is thrillingly staged on a safety net high above the heads of the audience. We are spared the sight of her destruction, because "evil when it is laid bare is too horrible to look at". We are also charmed because we realize that in this mirror world the able-bodied are the real freaks.

De Kermabon declines any purpose for *Freaks* other than to relate a story. Using blue light and flaming torches Alain Poisson, the lighting designer, and de Kermabon create an eerie atmosphere, heightened by ethereal music from outlandish instruments which look like armylit billets.

The cast of *Freaks* displays a theatrical skill, beauty and grace, which would banish all patronizing thoughts from even the most insensitive voyeur. What de Kermabon and her company provide is a piece of pure theatre which moves, thrills and delights us and finally breaks our hearts.

The story is simple and set in a circus. The dwarf (the word is used) Hans has fallen in love with the trapeze artist Cleopatra, "queen of air and space", forsoaking his fiancée Freda. Cleopatra conspires to marry Hans and then to poison him and inherit his money.

Her plot is discovered, however,

Lightly brushed by a bat's wing

OPERA

Hilary Finch

Die Fledermaus
Grand, Belfast

Opera Northern Ireland has just opened its first spring season. A substantial increase in both sponsorship and support from Belfast City Council has enabled it to do so, and if it is able to build on the success of this *Fledermaus* it could well have a nicely complementary light-repertoire slot to balance the main autumn run.

Although not entirely home-grown, this is one of the most stylish shows to grace Frank Matcham's Victorian theatre in some years. The production has been borrowed from Welsh National: its Helmut Politz's slightly self-conscious but most handsomely designed (Kathryn Kegler) staging, with its polar-bear rug, glass-domed ballroom and floor-to-ceiling prison. Tim Coleman, Opera Northern Ireland's resident dramatist, has directed this run, finding his own sharp balance of force and finesse.

STEPHEN FRY
ROBIN BAILEY
MARGARET COURTEAY
GABRIELLE DRAKE
SERENA GORDON
MICHAEL SIMKINS
IN
MICHAEL FRAYN'S
NEW PLAY *LOOK-LOOK*

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Conquest of the past

DANCE

John Percival

Kirov Ballet
Paris Opera

Just imagine the difference it would have made to ballet this century if Balanchine had not left Leningrad at the age of 20. Diaghilev would have lacked his last great choreographer, Stravinsky his ideal collaborator. New York City Ballet, if it existed at all, would be entirely other than it is. And pure dance might not have gained its ascendancy over old-style story ballets.

Balanchine needed the influence of Diaghilev, Stravinsky and New York city to develop (among other styles) the kind of evocative, music-inspired ballets he created in *Scotch Symphony* and *Theme and Variations*, both of which were mounted in Leningrad last year by two of his former American colleagues, respectively Suzanne Farrell and Francis Russell. Thus, six years after his death, the fruits of his long self-imposed artistic exile came home to his mother company.

Already the Kirov Ballet has shown them to a somewhat carpentry reception - in New York. Last week they reached Paris; London can expect them in the summer. Both, by evoking past eras, draw attention to connections between French, Russian, American and British traditions.

Inspired by a visit to the Edinburgh Festival in 1952, *Scotch Symphony* uses the last three movements of Mendelssohn's music for homage to the oldest surviving romantic ballet, *La Sylphide*, and its period. Effervescent creatures in pink tutu are paraded by men in predominantly red tutu kilts. A besotted lover courts a swift, light sylph. The folded arms and twirling feet of Scottish dancing are transformed into ballet steps.

Theme and Variations, to the last movement of Tchaikovsky's Suite No 3, was commissioned by Ballet Theatre in 1947 to show off two great stars, Alonso and Yousevitch. It incarnates a past grandeur: imperial Russia seen through mid-20th-century eyes and bodies. There are solos of baffling virtuosity, a big duet encompassing contrasted moods, swift and slow entries for a female ensemble; and a ceremonious finale to cumulative fanfares.

And what about the late C.P. Taylor's wry yet devastating portrait of the making of an SS killer, *Good?* What of the forgotten Peter Terson, author of the archetypal football-hooligan drama *Zigger Zagger*, or the neglected *Musetta Matura*, surely our finest black playwright?

We are, after all, talking about drama certain to seize the mind and feelings as boldly as anything written nowadays, in what one fears is the sunset of our renaissance: modern classics, which it would be criminal not to cherish.

Judging by two casts I saw, these productions suit the Kirov women better than the men. Elena Pankova is beautifully light and swift as the sylph; Galina Mezentseva does that role with a more gracious serenity. Larissa Lezhmina, a slim young blonde not seen before in Western Europe, has quick, pretty solos in *Scotch*.



Shrewd hero: Andris Liepa

Scotch Symphony full of scintillating jumps and entrechats.

Of course the Kirov dancers perform these works very differently from Balanchine's own company, but that was something he himself always seemed happy to accept, and if one misses American clarity and precision, Russian lyricism is something to be welcomed.

Oleg Vinogradov, the Kirov director, has drawn meticulously detailed backcloths (uncredited in the Paris programmes) for both these productions, the one for *Theme and Variations* showing the great blue and gold 19th-century auditorium of the Kirov Theatre: an apt welcome for a prodigal's return.

The spirit of change that allowed Vinogradov to mount these works has permitted him to add a third ballet to this programme, his own political reinterpretation of *Petrushka*, created last year for Scottish Ballet and given its Kirov company premiere in Paris.

He has sharpened some details, including the caricatures of Stalin, Brezhnev and Khrushchev, and the ballet gains from the greater numbers and experience of the Kirov corps de ballet.

The role, a lone figure resisting oppression until his death stirs others to join the struggle, went first to Andris Liepa, the young former Bolshoi star who is now a regular Kirov star. His interpretation, splendidly danced, makes *Petrushka* a shrewd figure, seeing through the gullible promises of politicians and using a clown's disguise to hide his wife. Sergei Vilkov, a dancer of sinuously soft fluency, proved even more moving, playing the part as a holy innocent, fired with a fervour he seems hardly to understand himself.

of a bat's wing creates a tension between simplicity and sophistication which is at the heart of Johann Strauss's operetta.

Parry has not only a keenly responsive Ulster Orchestra at his fingertips, but a nicely-picked cast whose balance of the young and the older troupers sends off sparks. Rosalinde, Eisenstein and Alfredo are all blessed with easy natural voices and the intelligence to hone them dramatically. Susan Bullock, Adrian Thompson and Peter Coleman-Wright play their trio instinctively, and Thompson's wooing song went down like the finest Tokai.

Sandra Dugdale and Thomas Lawlor anchor the performance in earthier humour as a vocally astute Adèle and a delightfully opera-hating Frosch. The warden is all but upstaged by the governor: Eric Roberts' Frank provides a virtuous cameo of near Marceau-esque movement. Verona James is a pert, lightweight Orlofsky with some fine Russian lability. Mark Holland, a somewhat sombre Falke. There are further performances tonight, Thursday and Saturday. *Fledermaus* fanciers across the water should make straight for the next Shuttle.



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Heart-breaking skills

THEATRE

Alasdair Cameron

Freaks
Tramway, Glasgow

"The members of my company are not disabled, they are actors," declares Geneviève de Kermabon of the cast of the provocatively named *Freaks*, which is the first international production of Glasgow's 1990 theatre season. This caution is unnecessary. Though at first we may notice the disabilities of many of the company, these are almost instantly forgotten.

The cast of *Freaks* displays a theatrical skill, beauty and grace, which would banish all patronizing thoughts from even the most insensitive voyeur. What de Kermabon and her company provide is a piece of pure theatre which moves, thrills and delights us and finally breaks our hearts.

The story is simple and set in a circus. The dwarf (the word is used) Hans has fallen in love with the trapeze artist Cleopatra, "queen of air and space", forsoaking his fiancée Freda. Cleopatra conspires to marry Hans and then to poison him and inherit his money.

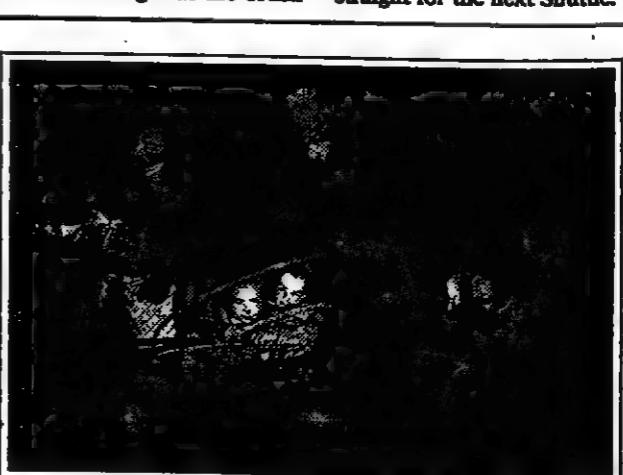
Her plot is discovered, however, and the other members of the circus pursue Cleopatra, wanting revenge for her greed and her insulting description of them as

monsters. But in the end it is her own fear which destroys her.

This final scene is thrillingly staged on a safety net high above the heads of the audience. We are spared the sight of her destruction, because "evil when it is laid bare is too horrible to look at". We are also charmed because we realize that in this mirror world the able-bodied are the real freaks.

Stephen Fry
Robin Bailey
Margaret Courtenay
Gabrielle Drake
Serena Gordon
Michael Simkins
in
MICHAEL FRAYN'S
NEW PLAY *LOOK-LOOK*

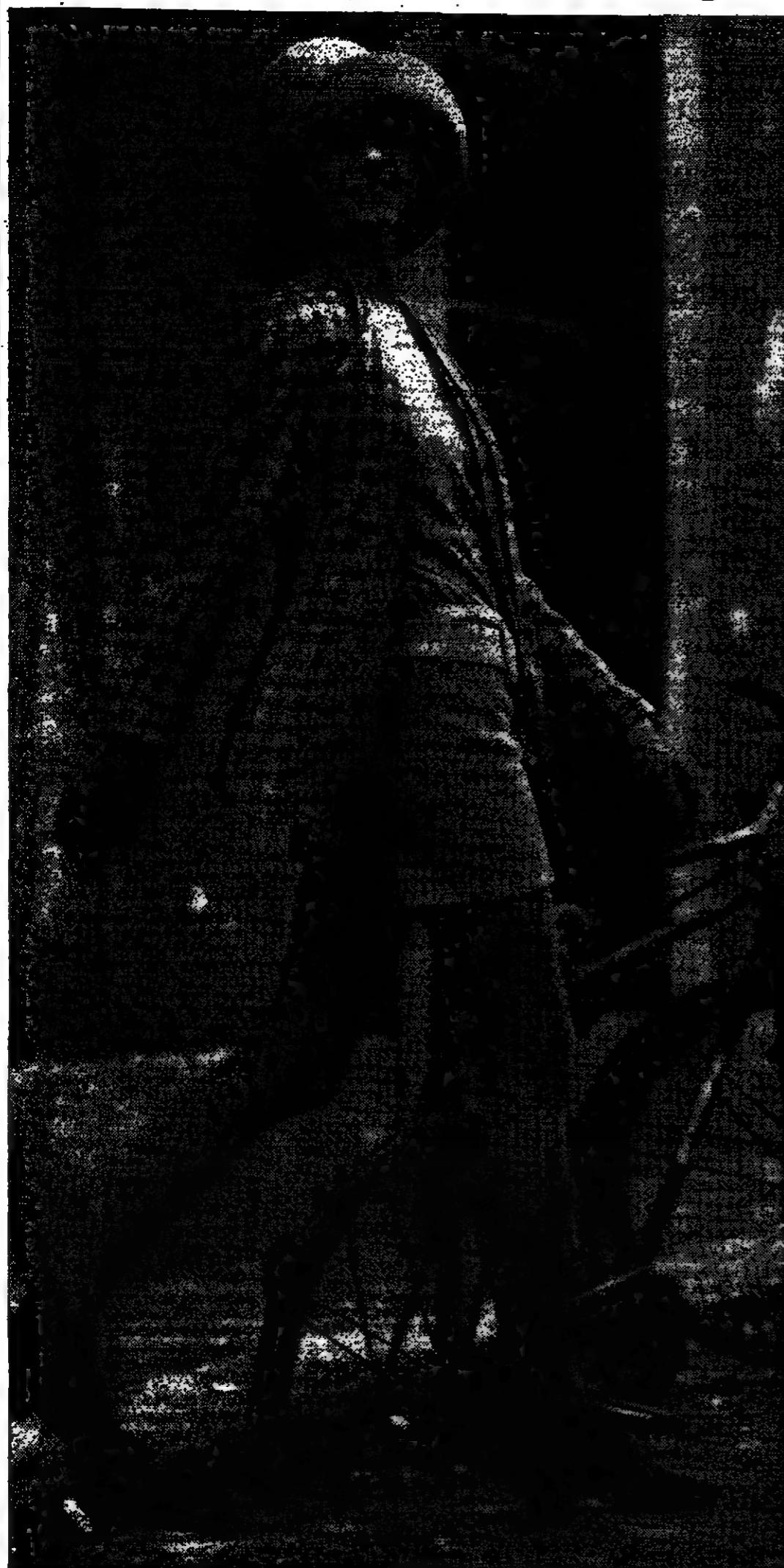
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A Pilgrim giving a Lecture on the Orrery exhb. 1766. Derby Art Gallery

MILAN FASHION by Liz Smith

Italian style in easy lessons



The winter collections parading down the catwalks of Milan are bursting with real, rugged clothes — duffel coats and parkas — but in glowing colours and fancy fabrics

Changing attitudes towards fashion, which stodgy retailers might translate as a crisis of fashion boredom, are providing women with a more comfortable and relaxed way to dress.

At the Milan shows which kick off the international season of collections for autumn 1990, it is apparent from the voluminous, downy-looking parkas worn over a beautiful sweater and snug leggings, or the new "slosh" jacket with its easy cut worn over a short skirt, that this is a very Italian way to dress.

All the energy and humour of the Italian spirit is being seen over and over again in the racy, rugged-looking clothes being shown in Milan this week.

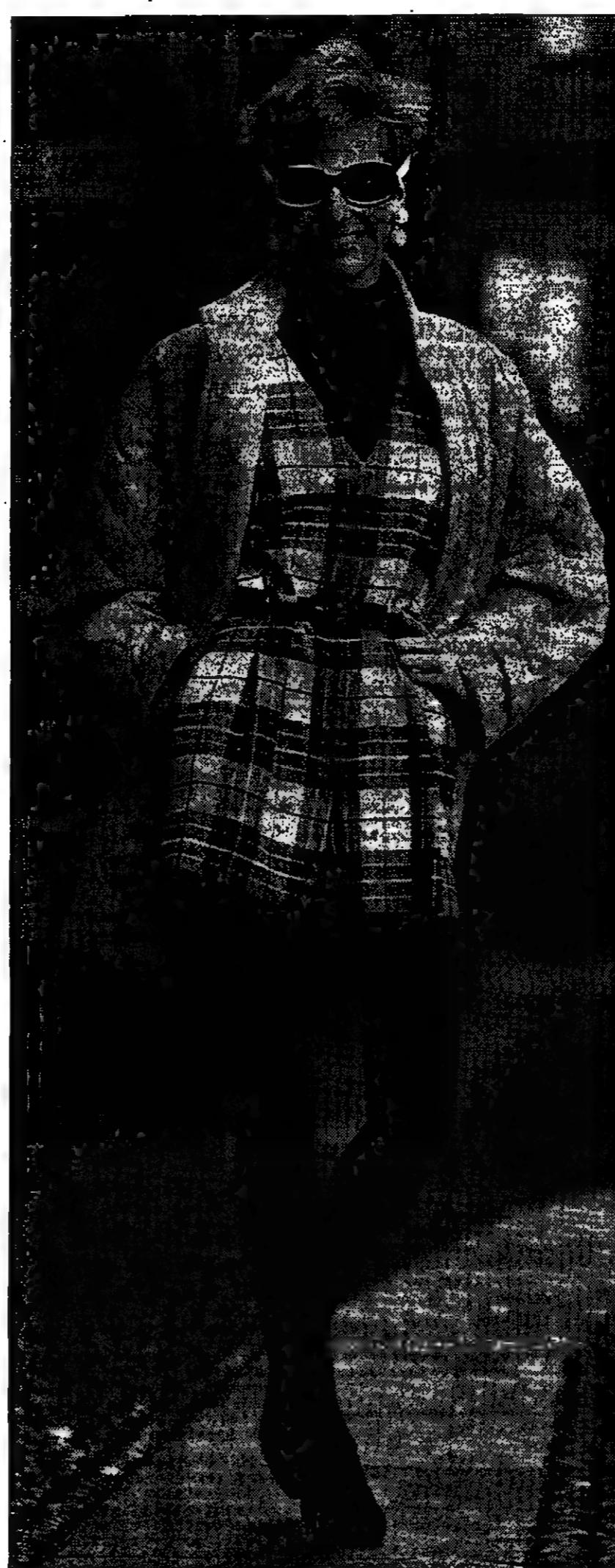
The stars of the season are unquestionably the basic parka jacket and the hooded duffel, which the Indians, like the French, insist on calling a Montgomery. From this broad-shouldered, hooded line, the fashionista silhouette tapers to a brief skirt or narrow trousers and leggings. Washed silk and fashion's new hi-tech fabric, microfibre, whose similar peachbloom texture absorbs colour superbly and whose tightly-woven surface shrugs off the rain, are the stuff seen billowing down the catwalk at every show, often puffed up with padding.

The prevailing mood for a sportier style suits Giorgio Armani perfectly. Italy's maestro of relaxed dressing, who took the stuffing out of fashionable tailoring a decade ago, continues to set the pace with a display of Italian fashion's major strengths, its innovative textiles (Armani orders around 300 exclusive fabrics for each collection) and its technologically superb manufacturing skills. While his own-name Topline invariably soothes the eye at the end of the schedule of Milan shows, with its particular brand of polished good taste, Emporio Armani, the sportier line that sells in its Knightsbridge store, established the new look for the season at the start of the shows.

Armani has put new slouch into his check tweed jacket, worn with trousers gathered in like golfing plus fours. His cape is a curvy cocoon of thick velours worn with high-flap ski boots.

Fake "ecological" furs are the new pets in Milan, not just at Emporio, where tiger and leopard capes and long coats stalked the catwalk with cord-trimmed, mock beaver shawls, but in most of the shows seen so far.

At Krizia, fake chimpanzee muffles the horse-patterned grey sweaters that will be the runaway success of next winter. In her youthful, energetic collection for Krizia, Mariuccia Mandelli adds extra bounce to her parkas with a thick cord gathering in hemlines and knotting loosely her long, chesuble coats, worn over ribbed leggings and comfortable, loose sweaters. Encrustations of embroidery in her new eagle motif smother



Top left: New slouch double-fronted jacket in beige and brown checks, with cream knitted shorts and esquissé belt, hat, Emporio Armani
Top right: Yellow quilted parka over tartan shorts jumpsuit, Oliver by Valentino
Above left: Hooded yellow suede parka, Versace by Gianni Versace
Above right: Hooded coat in turquoise and gold brocade, Gianfranco Ferré

Photographs by Tim BISHOP

short tight skirts as well as lapping over the shoulders of tailored jackets.

The two British designers at Byblos, Alan Cleaver and Keith Varty, always create relaxed, sporty clothes, and this season their anoraks and shawl-collared coats come in Mexican blanket wool.

Max Mara, one of Italy's top-selling labels to be found in stores across the UK, translated the look at its most wearable with beautiful thick-pile travel coats with drawstring waists, and hooded parkas in padded silk, worn over narrow trousers or leggings.

Even Gianni Versace, known for his structured, glamorous line, had relaxed his look; "these are clothes for women who go to work", he claims. His brightly coloured trench coats cinched tight over a bodyhugging stamp of a dress, and his favourite micro-short skirts, are obviously designed for the women he sees in his studio, such as his tiny blonde sister, Donatella, poised into leggins.

The new Moschino line? "They are just clothes," he shrugs. "Like last season and the season before that."

Nevertheless Versace has turned his extravagances and paraded one of his best collections ever, with sporty-looking blousons and parkas executed in vibrant shades of emerald, violet and pink.

Gianfranco Ferré, celebrated for his architectural silhouettes, endorses the new relaxed mood with long coats cut

like a bathrobe, bomber jackets, and hooded duffel coats that celebrate the luxury and colour that sum up Italian fashion. "I love simply sporty shapes in rich fabrics," he says of his oriental, porcelain-patterned brocades and bronze lace, layered to look like tweed, and the gold-quilted pullovers that are the stars of his collection. Since everybody has now copied Ferré's signature white shirt with his high collar and deep cuff, he has replaced it with a grey turtle neck.

Nobody need expect a straight catwalk show from Franco Moschino. The designer whose current passion is his new wardrobe of Savile Row suits and whose publicity campaign — featuring a vampire who feeds on fashion victims — carries the slogan "Stop the Fashion System", is staging a happening at the Fiera tomorrow.

The new Moschino line? "They are just clothes," he shrugs. "Like last season and the season before that."

For the uninitiated, this means a jeans jacket in ruffled brocade or a Marie Antoinette pampered skirt mixed with a fringed suede cowboy jacket. Clothes are not taken seriously by Moschino. "I may be a jester," he says, "but I am a suggester, an observer, even a philosopher, never a fashion designer."

Perfect partnership

He calls her "the boss". She sometimes calls him "my bridegroom". The partnership of Aldo Pinto and Mariuccia Mandelli, the couple behind the Krizia label, is an explosion of two exuberant and forceful personalities who have together put their stamp on international fashion.

Mariuccia Mandelli started alone in 1954 when she gave up teaching to make simple dresses. She picked the name Krizia from a Plato dialogue on woman's vanity, changing the initial Greek C to a K. Since their marriage in 1966, Aldo has applied his administrative skills to her design talent and intuitive understanding of women to turn Krizia into a \$350 million empire that today sells ceramics and scents as well as Krizia Poi (lower priced line), menswear, knitwear and children's wear. These are all regularly paraded in a magnificent private theatre in the 18th-century neo-classic palazzo that is their Milan base. The K Club, a line of luxurious bungalows along a beach in Barbuda, is her latest project, which she plans to franchise to a Japanese resort developer.

Early on she devised a



Krizia's couple: Mariuccia Mandelli with Aldo Pinto

successful signature theme based on her love of animals, prompting a different motif each season which fashion followers find irresistible. Every animal sweater has become a collector's item.

Next month the new flagship Krizia shop will be opened in London's Sloane Street by Jacqueline Brusone, who already runs London's Yves Saint Laurent and Karl Lagerfeld shops. It will house Krizia's menswear as well as her main collection, accessories and fragrances. Krizia will be at 205 Sloane Street, London SW1.



Win a Cerruti suit fit for a film star

In the film *War of the Roses*, which opens here on Friday, Michael Douglas (above), who plays the warring husband Oliver Rose, co-stars with a Cerruti navy cashmere coat and several impeccably tailored Cerruti suits. If you can pinpoint the date when Nino Cerruti's grandfather founded the family textile mill in Biella, Italy — it appears on some Cerruti labels for men and women — you can win a Cerruti man's suit from Selfridges worth up to £500. Was it 1880, 1891 or 1897?

Write the date on a postcard with your name and address and send it to Liz Smith, Fashion Editor, The Times, 1 Princes Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive not later than Monday, March 12. The sender of the first correct answer pulled out of the bag will win the suit, a bottle of Cerruti Eau de Toilette for men, and a pair of tickets to see the film. Five runners-up will each win a bottle of Cerruti Eau de Toilette for men (worth £22.50), and a pair of film tickets. The tickets can be used only at the Odeon, Leicester Square, London, between March 19 and March 23.

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THEATRE

Jeremy Kingston

LONDON

SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE Long-anticipated London premiere of Sondheim's 1984 musical inspired by Seurat's painting of a million dots: Philip Quast as George, Maria Friedman as Dot. National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (01-928 2252). Tube: Waterloo. Now previewing. Opens March 15. 7pm. This week Mon-Sat 7.30pm; from March 17 Wed and Sat mat 2.15pm. Previews £27.21. From March 15: Tues £22.20, Wed mat 2.21, Sat mat 27.21.

JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL Tom Consi takes over from Peter O'Toole as the drunk-about-town columnist, locked overnight in his "local". A great show if you're into the company of drunks. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 2683). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm, Sat 9.45pm, mat 2.30-4.30pm and Sat 4.45pm.

BENT Powerful performance by Ian McKellen as a doomed homosexual in a Nazi camp: the words-only love scene with Michael Cashman is unmatched for conveying triumph within torment. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-379 6107). Tube: Leicester Square. From tonight: Mon-Sat 8-10.30pm, mat Sat 4.30pm, £9.50-16.50.

HANGOVER SQUARE Excellent version by Cut and Thrust of Patrick Hamilton's unerring picture of a man's obsession with a treacherous farce notably inventive details keep his journey to murder. Lyric Theatre, Kings Street, Hammermith, W6 (01-741 2311). Tube: Hammersmith. From tonight until Sat 7.45-9.45pm, mat Wed 2.30-4.30pm and Sat 4.45pm.

NEW ANATOMIES Revival of early Timberlake Wertenbaker play on the life of Isabelle Archer, Victorian explorer and transvestite homed. From March 13, in repertory with *The Dutch Courtesan* and *The Diviners*, a so-called Jacobean revival and a stranded modern mid-West drama.

Men in the Moon Theatre, 392 King's Road, SW3 (01-351 2876). Tube: Sloane Square, then bus down the King's Road. Preview tonight, 8.30pm. Opens tomorrow, 8.30pm. Tues-Sun 8.30pm, £5.

MY NAME, SHALL I TELL YOU MY NAME: Yew Theatre from County Mayo with Christina Reid's play about an old Professor's addictions and the granddaughter who grows away from him. Yew, Vic Theatre, St. Kevins, 96 the Cut, SE1 (01-928 6363). Tube: Waterloo. Preview from tonight, 8pm. Opens Fri, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 5pm, until March 24.

CARDIFF Harry IV: Richard Harris, Sarah Miles, Ian Hogg, Harold Innocent, directed by David Thacker in the Prinstedo play, beginning a tour before a West End run.

New (0222 354844) Opens Mar 13: Tues 7.30pm, 8.15-9.30, Mat 8pm and Sat 8pm. £7.50-10.50. Until Mar 17.

VALENTINO Award-winning Shantell Beesley's company combine with Birmingham Rep to give a stylishly physical account of the sex-life of the screen icon. Half Moon Theatre, 213 Mill End Road, E1 (01-790 4000). Tube: Stepney Green. Opens tomorrow, 7.30-9.30pm, Wed-Sat 7.30-9.30pm, Wed, Thurs E3.50; Fri, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 5pm, until March 17.

LONG RUNNERS: Aspects of Love: Princes of Wales Theatre (01-639 56720). Colise New London Theatre (01-405 0072). Les Liaisons Dangerous: Ambassador Theatre (01-636 6111). ... Me and My Girl: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7913). ... Les Miserables: Palace Theatre (01-434 0099). ... Miss Saigon: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (01-379 4444). ... The Merchant of St. Martin's Theatre (01-536 1443). ... The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-839 2244). ... Run for Your Wife: Whitehall Theatre (01-867 1116). ... Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (01-522 6565).

In his own preferred image



The set for Terry Eagleton's play *Saint Oscar*, previewing from tomorrow at Hampstead Theatre, is dominated by a life-size statue (see our picture, right) of arrow-pierced St Sebastian suspended above the stage. This was, for several reasons, Oscar Wilde's favourite image and at times of stress he identified himself with it. The stresses of Wilde's life are the subject of Eagleton's play which the Irish touring company Field Day are bringing to London for a four-week run after their highly successful tour on both sides of the border last autumn. The piece, very much a play of ideas rather than a narrative, is being tightened up a little for its London premiere. Founded 10 years ago by Stephen Rea (right, as Wilde), and Brian Friel, the company was last seen over here in Friel's *Translations*, at the National Theatre last year. Eagleton is Lecturer on Critical Theory at Oxford University and this is his first play. Trevor Griffiths directs — the first time he has directed a play that is not his own — and the cast includes Eileen Pollock as Wilde's Nationalist mother and Peter Hanly as the pretentious Lord Alfred Douglas. The music is by Philip Chevron (of the Pogues) and Neil Martin. Hampstead Theatre, 88a St. Cottages, NW3 (01-722 9301). Preview tomorrow and 1 Thursday, 8pm. Opens Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 10pm. Then Mon-Sat 2.15pm. Tues-Fri evenings and Sat mat 5.30pm. Sat evening £8.

Jeremy Kingston

OUTSIDE LONDON

BELFAST *Ghosts*: New Northern Irish version of Ibsen's drama of personal responsibility and turning up phantoms; still set in Norway but with Ulster talk. Lyric Theatre, Ridgeway Street (0222 361011). Opens tonight 8pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 8.30pm. Sat 9.45pm, mat Wed 2.30-4.30pm and Sat 4.45pm.

EDINBURGH *Fleabag*: Rare revival for Terence Rattigan's 1942 study of wartime hopes, fears and courage, set in an hotel near a British airfield.

Repertory, Tay Square (0322 285300). Opens Thurs 7.30pm. Opens Mar 13. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, £4.50-£12.30. Mat 8pm, 2.30-2.45pm. Tues Mar 22, 8pm, 2.30pm; Mar 31, 8pm.

GLASGOW *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*: Tango-dancing playboy (Eamonn Walker) becomes First World War hero: adaptation of the Spanish novel, with a nod to the Valentine film. Citizens', Gorbals (041-428 5561). Preview Thurs 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat 8pm. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, £5. Tues-Fri evenings and Sat mat 5.30pm.

CAMBRIDGE *Absurd Person Singular*: Alan Ayckbourn directs his 17-year-old Christmas play, a classic mix of farce and tragedy. En route for the West End, Arts, St. Edward's Passage (0223 632000). Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 4pm, 2.30pm.

LEEDS *Wise Men*: Splendid new theatre opens with *Reece Dinsdale* and Sam Kelly playing master and servant in John O'Keefe's sprightly Regency comedy of mistaken identities.

Quarry, West Yorkshire Playhouse (0322 442111). Preview tomorrow, 7.30pm. Opens Thurs, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat 4pm, 2.45pm-2.50pm. Tues Mar 20, 8pm, 2.30pm; Mar 31, 8pm.

YORK *Ladies' Night*: Paul Morrison's touring production of "adults only" comedy about men strippers who take a girl's advice on how to improve their act. Theatre Royal, St. Leonard's Place (0504 622668). Opens Sat and Sun. Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, mat Wed 2.45pm-2.50pm. Until Mar 24.

LIVERPOOL *Love at a Loss*: First revival since 1700 of Catherine Trotter's comedy, said to be witty and so daring

that its first production was closed after three performances.

Hope Street (01-707 4776). Preview tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 8pm. Then Tues-Sat 8pm. Preview 21; From tomorrow, 2.15-5pm. Until March 31.

MANCHESTER *Yours, Mine*: Music theatre version of Anne Frank's diaries includes material cut by her editors; hard to imagine how this will be staged, but you never can tell.

Library, St. Peter's Square (061 266 7110). Preview Fri, 7.30pm. Opens Sat, 8pm. Then Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, mat 8pm. Mon-Fri 7.30pm, mat 8pm. Sat 9.45pm, mat 10.45pm. Until March 24.

NOTTINGHAM *Reign of Terror*: Sondheim's adaptation of Brecht's 1956 examination, through the story of O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone under Elizabeth I, of how history can be tailored to create a national mythology.

Nottingham Playhouse (0602 732211). Preview tomorrow, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat 4pm, 2.45pm. Tues Mar 20, 8pm, 2.30pm; Mar 21, 8pm.

NOTTINGHAM *SCREAMING BLUE MURDER*: The amic of a group of students at a college of journalism; sold to *Entertainment Weekly* as "cheeky, crazy and funny"; with Roger Lloyd Pack as the college porter. A co-production with TVS and Tyne-Tees; six-part television series follows. Nuffield, University Road (071 6717171). Preview from Thurs, 7.30pm. Opens Mar 13. 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, mat 9.45pm. Tues Mar 20, 8pm, 2.45pm-2.50pm. Until Mar 31.

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NOTTINGHAM *THE CROCODILE*: The Concord, opposite Palace Pier, Madeira Drive (0273 822860). Doors 7.30pm; Show 8.30pm; 22. Stand-up comedy. Sat: John Kelly; Sun: Eddie Izzard; Simon Singh (comper).

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NOTTINGHAM *WICK CLUE*: Maudlin Road West, corner of Neil Lane (061 257 3769). Doors 8.30pm. Show 8.30pm; 22. Wed: Frank Skinner (comper); Lee Evans; Paul Brophy (with music); The Man with the Beard.

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Poll tax 'outlaws' attack councillors

By Craig Seton

Five people were arrested by police yesterday when anti-poll tax demonstrators dressed as Robin Hood and his Merry Men disrupted a meeting of Nottingham City Council and hurled foam-filled pies at councillors.

The Labour council was meeting to fix a poll tax rate of £390 when the protesters forced a side door and invaded the council chamber, blowing whistles and hooters and throwing official papers into the air. The sitting was suspended as police ejected the demonstrators.

Many of the 55 councillors at the meeting ducked as plates full of shaving foam were thrown in the council chamber by an estimated 15 demonstrators, including a man dressed as Maid Marion, who urged the council to resign rather than fix a poll tax rate. One Conservative councillor, Mrs Barbara Ricks, was hit full in the face by the foam.

Police patrolled the corridors outside the council chamber after five people were arrested and the remainder were removed. There had already been heckling from the packed public gallery at the meeting began.

Councillor Betty Higgins, leader of the Labour group, said: "People have a right to make their feelings known in all sorts of ways but they must

Landowners pay 2

realize that we are legally obliged to go ahead with this meeting and set a community charge." Mr Bill Bradbury, Conservative leader, said: "I felt like thumping one of them."

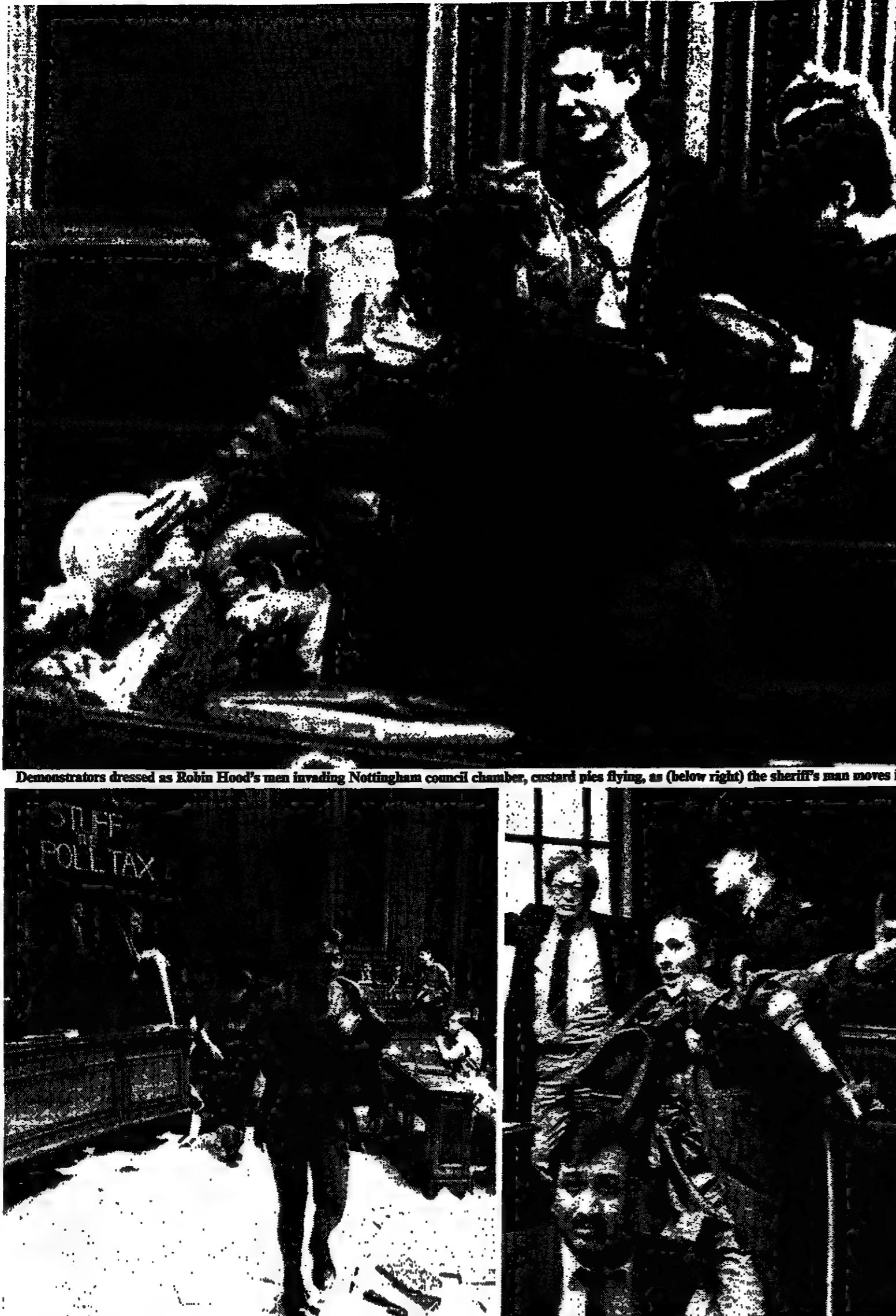
• A woman on horseback thrust a makeshift spear through a 20ft effigy of Mrs Thatcher outside Truro Cathedral, Cornwall, during a protest against the poll tax. The effigy was set on fire and demonstrators surrounded police as a man was arrested.

When he was taken to a Truro police station dozens of protesters followed. He was transferred to Camborne.

• A demonstrator climbed 80ft on to the Bristol City Council roof and daubed a 30ft message to city councillors who today are due to set one of the highest poll tax charges outside London — about £504. The long slogan read: "Watt Tyler — wish you were here, young Kilroy!"

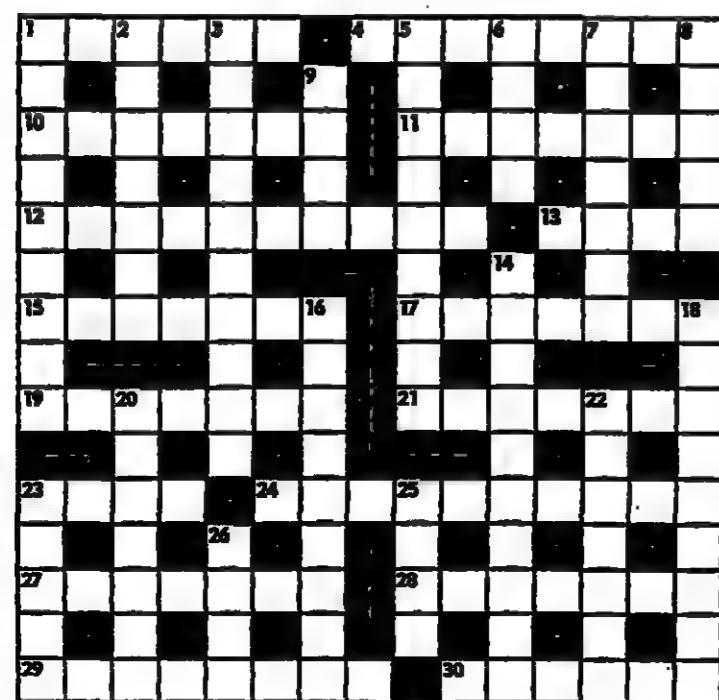
• The first telephones poll to set a Merseyside council budget is shown overwhelming backing for the Conservatives' lower community charge. No party has a majority on Wirral Borough Council and the two main parties, the Tories and Liberal Democrats, agreed to abide by a ratepayers' phone-in to decide the budget.

By 8,080 to 4,467, the voters rejected the Liberal Democrat's proposed £360 community charge and backed Tory proposals for a £339 poll tax, to be achieved by £6 million cut through job losses and reductions in services.



Demonstrators dressed as Robin Hood's men invading Nottingham council chamber, custard pies flying, as (below right) the sheriff's man moves in.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,234



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

MULLIGRUBS

- a. Sulkiness
- b. Shallow excavations
- c. Cheesecake

MUGWUMP

- a. A deformed camel
- b. A chief
- c. An idiot

GOMMEEN MAN

- a. Him who just left
- b. A moustachioed leader
- c. A woodoo priest

GUMPEL-FOUSTED

- a. Matress dressed as lamb
- b. Got the better of
- c. Moody

Answers on page 20

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

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M-ways/roads M25 733

M-ways/roads M23, M4 735

M25 London Orbital only 736

National motorways

West Country 738

Midlands 739

East Anglia 740

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 6 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

ACROSS

- 1 Girl holding the right spanner (6).
- 4 To reach a high ball, you must hurry (4,2,2).
- 10 A way in a betting system to win as much as you want (2,5).
- 11 Most tough threads can be disengaged (7).
- 12 Bargain lots (1,5,4).
- 13 Weed that agriculturists rarely eradicate, taking just the heads (4).
- 15 Off window shelf is back to front — it's wrong (7).
- 17 Citadel demolished, in a manner of speaking (7).
- 19 President one of the greens (7).
- 21 Lived and deposited outside church (7).
- 23 School about to make money (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,233

ADAPT RECONDITE
PT TRA DINH
PROVISION CUTIN
RL PNT TEE
ASLOPE PRESERVE
I I COTS
STRONGHOLD LEAP
SEGAL MCA
DOPE WINETASTER
R S N R Q A
EXERCISE INFORM
M S O T PEVE
DIRECT OVERSPENT
M N E RIRE
GET EIGENT ALTAR

Concise Crossword, page 20

WEATHER

Scotland will have a mostly cloudy day with rain in many parts. In sheltered eastern areas, the rain will be lighter with a chance of some brightness. Northern Ireland, north-west England, Wales and south-west England will remain overcast, with some light rain. The rest of England and Wales will be dry and cloudy, but with a greater chance of some sun. Outlook: cloud, with rain, in the north, spreading south.

ABROAD

MONDAY: 1. Thunder; 2. drizzle; 3. fog; 4. sun; 5. rain; 6. snow; 7. sun; 8. clouds; 9. rain; 10. sun; 11. clouds; 12. sun; 13. clouds; 14. sun; 15. clouds; 16. sun; 17. clouds; 18. sun; 19. clouds; 20. sun; 21. clouds; 22. sun; 23. clouds; 24. sun; 25. clouds; 26. sun; 27. clouds; 28. sun; 29. clouds; 30. sun; 31. clouds; 32. sun; 33. clouds; 34. sun; 35. clouds; 36. sun; 37. clouds; 38. sun; 39. clouds; 40. sun; 41. clouds; 42. sun; 43. clouds; 44. sun; 45. clouds; 46. sun; 47. clouds; 48. sun; 49. clouds; 50. sun; 51. clouds; 52. sun; 53. clouds; 54. sun; 55. clouds; 56. sun; 57. clouds; 58. sun; 59. clouds; 60. sun; 61. clouds; 62. sun; 63. clouds; 64. sun; 65. clouds; 66. sun; 67. clouds; 68. sun; 69. clouds; 70. sun; 71. clouds; 72. sun; 73. clouds; 74. sun; 75. clouds; 76. sun; 77. clouds; 78. sun; 79. clouds; 80. sun; 81. clouds; 82. sun; 83. clouds; 84. sun; 85. clouds; 86. sun; 87. clouds; 88. sun; 89. clouds; 90. sun; 91. clouds; 92. sun; 93. clouds; 94. sun; 95. clouds; 96. sun; 97. clouds; 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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6380 (-0.0140)

W German mark
2.7922 (-0.0438)

Exchange Index
87.7 (-1.0)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1755.6 (-18.6)

FT-SE 100
2230.5 (-24.3)

USM (Datstream)
148.27 (-0.65)

Market report, page 26

ICI plans
buy-back

Imperial Chemical Industries is seeking shareholder approval to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares.

ICI will put the proposal at the annual meeting scheduled for May 1. Prices paid for ICI stock will not exceed 105 per cent of the average official middle market price for 10 days before purchase.

Comment, page 25

Ransomes up

Pre-tax profits at Ransomes, the lawn mower manufacturer, rose 9 per cent to £14.4 million in 1989. The final dividend is up 0.45p to 4.2p, leaving the total 12 per cent higher at 6.15p.

Tempus, page 24

Sweet payout

Thorntons, the chocolate retailer, increased its interim dividend 34.1 per cent to 1.1p. Pre-tax profits for the 28 weeks to January 6 were 4.6 per cent up at £7.2 million on the 32-week period last year.

Tempus, page 24

STOCK MARKETS

New York:
Dow Jones 2544.82 (-15.54)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 3384.52 (-212.30)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 2938.55 (+0.79)

Australia:
ASX 102.73 (+0.14)

Germany:
DAX 1853.15 (+14.95)

Brussels:
General 5778.79 (+22.86)

Paris CAC 504.67 (+0.02)

Zurich SKA Gen 802.12 (+2.0)

London:
FT-SE All-Share 1109.45 (-11.58)

FT-SE 1500 1211.55 (-12.95)

FT-Gold Miners 276.5 (-7.0)

FT-Fixed interest 85.12 (-0.52)

FT-Govt Secs 77.88 (-0.72)

Recent issues
Closing prices Page 26

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rates:
Liberty 4450 (+10p)

S Miller 900 (+10p)

Ransomes 1700 (+10p)

FALLS:
Alfred Lyons 42500 (-10p)

Bass 8300 (-20p)

Grand Met 537p (-10p)

A Coven 775p (-10p)

Blockley 5000 (-10p)

Brown & Root 715p (-10p)

Body Shop 4574p (-310)

British Aerospace 4849p (-210)

Capital Radio 200p (-10p)

Carton Comm 750p (-10p)

Olive Holdings 180p (-10p)

W. Long 289p (-10p)

Cable & Wireless 550p (-10p)

Housing Group 990p (-10p)

Salt. Thyme 990p (-10p)

McInerney 1400 (-100)

Hammerman 715p (-20p)

Closing prices Page 27

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 15%

5-month Treasury Bills 15.15%

US Prime Rate 10%

Federal Funds 9.75%

3-month Treasury Bills 7.78-7.77%

20-year bonds 8.50-8.51%

CURRENCIES

£ 1.6380 New York

£ 1.6380 E. 1.6380

£ 1.6380 DM 1.7036

£ 1.6380 Fr 1.6380

£ 1.6380 Yen 1.6380

£ 1.6380 S. 1.6380

£ 1.6380 ECU 1.6380

£ 1.6380 Gold 1.6380

£ 1.6380 New York 1.6380

£ 1.6380 Comex 1.6380

£ 1.6380 North Sea Oil 1.6380

£ 1.6380 Brent (Apr) 1.6380

£ 1.6380 Denotes latest trading price

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Apr) 1.6380

Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Bank 1.6380

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Passenger traffic rises 50% at City Airport

John Mowlem, the contractor, has announced that the number of business passengers using its City Airport in London's Docklands in January and February was 50 per cent higher than a year ago. Last month Mowlem announced that it was making a £33 million provision in its 1989 accounts to offset the airport's development costs and trading losses.

According to Mr William Charnock, the airport managing director, 36,745 passengers used the airport in January and February of this year compared to 24,656.

Ernest Green climbs 16% to £3.61m

Pre-tax profits at Ernest Green and Partners Holdings, the USM structural and civil engineering consultancy, climbed 16 per cent to £1.52 million in the six months to end-December, on turnover up 18 per cent to £6.87 million. Earnings per share rose 13 per cent to 12.3p. The interim dividend rose 22 per cent to 2.75p.

Cabra acquires Rohan

Rohan Group, the Dublin-based development and construction company, has been sold by Mountleigh, the property company being restructured by the American business Mr Neilson Peitz and Mr Peter May.

Rohan has been bought for £40 million by Cabra Estates, whose chief executive is Mr John Duggan. Mr Duggan sold Rohan to Mountleigh two years ago as part of Phoenix Properties and Finance, which Mountleigh bought for £61 million. Cabra is also acquiring a 44 per cent stake in the Texas residential developer Hallmark.

Cresta runs up to £6.66m

Pre-tax profits at Cresta Holdings, the Isle of Man mini-conglomerate restructuring to concentrate on nursing homes, more than doubled from £0.71 million to £6.66 million in the year to end-December. Earnings climb from 12p to 12.2p, despite double the shares in issue. The final is 1.2p (1p), making 1.5p, up 20 per cent.

Ownership action

A company controlled by Mr David Rowland, the property entrepreneur with a 48.5 per cent interest in Inoco, has been taken to court by the New Zealand Securities Commission.

Inoco owns 37 per cent of the US-listed Gulf Resources and Chemicals, which is poised to become the biggest shareholder of City Realities, the New Zealand property company. But the deal risks being thrown into disarray by a high court hearing on Monday, of an action by the NZSC over the ownership of Zetas Enterprises, City Realities' majority shareholder. Zetas is capitalized at only NZ\$100 (£25), yet it bought its 70.42 per cent stake for NZ\$56 million last year.

Persimmon's northern light shines on

Those who expected the southern slump in house buying activity to have "ripped" its way north will have been left scratching their heads after the impressive results from the York-based housebuilder Persimmon.

Driven by an average selling price per house 23 per cent higher than a year ago, pre-tax profits rose 10 per cent to £32.6 million in the year to December. Margins, too, were increased, up from 24.8 per cent in 1988 to 25.2 per cent in 1989. With a 4.5p final dividend, the company's total distribution to shareholders rose 30 per cent.

The Persimmon results are the clearest sign yet that the housing market in the North of England is a very different animal from its counterpart in the South.

In the North, where prices have never required buyers to club together, the ending of joint mortgage relief came and went unnoticed. Since then, the market moved comfortably on, driven by the economic recovery in the region.

Mr Duncan Davidson, Persimmon chairman, would claim to be a national housebuilder, but the fact remains that of the 1,796 homes sold by the company last year, more than 1,200 were sold north of Birmingham.

The future appears to have the same bias — with 7,200 of the company's 9,730 sites currently with planning con-



John Thornton: delivering the goodies at Thorntons

cerns while Sock Shop over-expanded, increased its debt and moved into North America. Thorntons, under the chairmanship of Mr John Thornton, grandson of the founder, has used franchises, has gearing of only 8 per cent and moved on to the Continent.

Pre-tax profits for the 28 weeks to January 6 were up 4.6

BP fleet risk on open market

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

BP is moving the insurance of its world tanker fleet on to the world market after 30 years of the fleet being insured entirely by BP's own in-house insurance company, Tanker Insurance.

BP said that the tanker fleet was regarded by the insurance industry as a "high-quality" risk and it was felt that more effective coverage could be available on the open market.

The insurance broker Heath Martens Horner has been instructed by BP to handle the

placing. The underwriting is expected to be split between the London market and some overseas markets.

The vessels to be insured include the 20 tankers of BP Shipping and six coastal tankers of BP Oil UK. The combined value of the fleet is about £250 million.

BP's Tanker Insurance will continue to handle insurance for other company assets such as oil rigs, production platforms and pipelines, with the company policy of having all

its third-party risk handled by the world insurance market and Tanker Insurance placing most of its reinsurance in the open market.

Traditionally about half

BP's assets have been insured in-house with London and other markets handling the remainder of the business.

It is also intended that

Tanker Insurance will participate in the insurance following the market lead, but only up to a maximum of 25 per cent.

Amex risks challenge to Shearson buy-back plan

From James Bone, New York

There was speculation yesterday that American Express could face lawsuits from Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc shareholders after announcing that it would buy all the remaining publicly-held common stock in its ailing securities unit in a \$350 million stock swap.

Amex announced on Sunday that it had abandoned talks with third parties, including Primerica Corp, about possible changes in Shearson's ownership, and would buy back the approximately 30 per cent of Shearson common stock in public hands. The move ended months of manoeuvring by Amex to shore up Shearson's finances to stave off a possible credit downgrade.

Amex's move marked a sudden reversal of its policy to cut its 68 per cent stake in Shearson to under 50 per cent, so that it could take the securities firm's assets and liabilities off its balance sheet.

Amex will buy out the

minority stake in Shearson by exchanging 0.426 of its common shares for each outstanding common share in Shearson.

The proposal reflects Friday's closing prices — \$29.375 for Amex and \$12.50 for Shearson — and offers a premium for Shearson shares.

Analysts predicted that Shearson shareholders might respond with legal action.

Amex first sold Shearson shares to the public at \$34 each in March 1987.

Mr Jim Barnbury, of

Wertheim Schroder, said that Shearson shareholders might find it difficult to sue Amex.

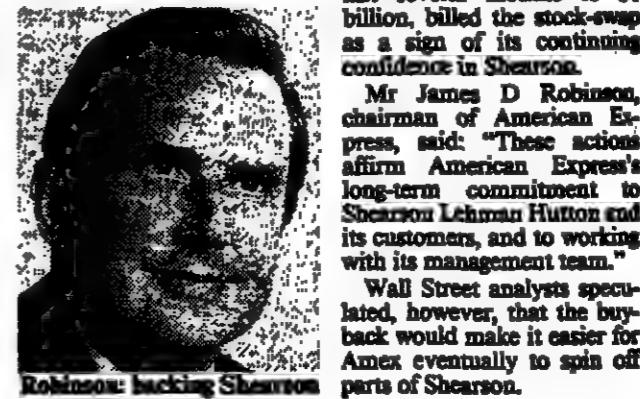
He said: "The reason that American Express is doing this is to shore up Shearson."

Nippon Life Insurance Co of Japan will retain the 13 per cent stake it holds in Shearson through an issue of voting convertible preferred stock.

Amex, which last week said that it was pumping a further \$750 million into Shearson to bring its cash infusion over the last several months to \$1 billion, billed the stock-swap as a sign of its continuing confidence in Shearson.

Mr James D Robinson, chairman of American Express, said: "These actions affirm American Express' long-term commitment to Shearson Lehman Hutton and its customers, and to working with its management team."

Wall Street analysts speculated, however, that the buy-back would make it easier for Amex eventually to spin off parts of Shearson.



Tokyo seats for BZW and Capel

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Two British stockbrokers have been allowed to join the Tokyo Stock Exchange after a wait of half a decade.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd and James Capel have been told they will be granted membership of the world's biggest stock market in April, ending years of behind-the-scenes finger-wagging by Mrs Thatcher and the British Government over an issue that had become another example of Japan's corporate chauvinism.

Joining the London Stock Exchange is a matter of joining The Securities Association, the regulatory body, and paying entrance and annual fees of up to £50,000 each. BZW and James Capel will have to pay up Y1.34 billion (£5.46 million) each to obtain

and be fully manned, with 250 employees, by 1992.

By then, construction of the second factory, on a site still to be decided but in the Derry City area, will be under way. This will manufacture sweatshirts for the European market, begin recruitment in 1993 and be fully manned, with 250 employees, by 1995.

Fruit of the Loom, which claims a 40 per cent share of the US market for its products which also include underwear, sports kit and socks, already employs 25,000 people at 40 sites mostly in the USA.

But it is one of the biggest industrial employers in the Irish Republic, with 1,700 workers making T-shirts and sweatshirts at factories in County Donegal.

Fruit of the Loom has traded under its brand name since 1851.

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and be fully manned, with 250 employees, by 1992.

Lilleys' shares lost 1p at 57p; Hatfield's rose by 1p to 236p.

COMPANY BRIEFS

CAPITA GROUP (Fin) Pre-tax: £1.30m (£0.74m) EPS: 10.38p (6.65p) Div: 1.7p, mkg 2.5p

BURFORD HOLDINGS (Fin) Pre-tax: £2.20m (£1.27m) EPS: 1.1p (1.6p) Div: 0.36p, mkg 0.65p

SUMIT (Fin) Pre-tax: £0.59m (£0.53m) EPS: 7.7p (6.5p) Div: 3.7p mkg 5.2p (4.5p)

UNIDARE (Fin) Inc Pre-tax: £4.12m (£5.8m) EPS: 22.63p (38.10p) Div: 10.05p mkg 13.5p

NESCO INVS (Fin) Pre-tax: Loss £0.23m EPS: 5.10p (0.7p) Div: Nil (1p)

Last year's total dividend was 1.5p. The current year has started well with a number of acquisition opportunities under review.

Last year's total dividend was 0.5p. Net asset value a share increased to 56.4p (49.5p). Group turnover climbed to £20.1m (£12.7m).

Net asset value a share slipped from 258p to 245p basic and from 213p to 206p fully diluted. Gross revenue fell from £1.5m to £1.49m.

Last year's total dividend was 12.7p. Sales climbed to £96.5m (£75.5m).

There was an extraordinary loss of £1.24m due to the Finglas closure.

Last year's pre-tax profit was £70,000. Turnover increased to 55.55m (£1.9m). Interest debt was £180,000, against 237,000 credit.

Whether you're heading for Edinburgh or Glasgow, Air UK's Sterling service from London Gatwick is really worth sounding off about.

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AirUK

Where business takes off

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AirUK

Where business takes off

Wyndham in Cardiff deal

By Our City Staff

Wyndham Group, Mr Brian Brownhill's property, motor and financial services group, is set to buy Churchill House, a freehold property in Cardiff, for £10.1 million from Magnet House Properties.

Churchill House is situated on a prime location in Cardiff city centre.

The property provides 80,000 sq ft of office accommodation, fully let. Churchill House has a reversionary rental value of about £965,000.

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Coal jobs to be lost over contracts says Haslam

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

New contracts to supply the about-to-be-privatised power generators and the effects of three successive mild winters will lead to redundancies in the industry and a revaluation of its deep mine assets, Sir Robert Haslam, the chairman of British Coal, admitted yesterday.

He told the Coal Industry Society that had coal prices been allowed to rise at the same rate as inflation, the industry would have made "Hanson-class" profits.

However, Sir Robert said the new contracts with National Power and PowerGen — under which British Coal will supply 5 million tonnes a year

less than previously to the CEGB — are increasing the pressures on the industry.

He said: "Some realignment of our productive capacity will be required. While the details cannot be finally identified until further discussions about coal flows to the individual power stations have been concluded, we will do what needs to be done as quickly and as painlessly as possible."

"I am quite convinced this is what everyone in our industry prefers so that we can concentrate on the business of building for the future."

"There has been some scepticism cast upon the inherent value of the contracts, recog-

nizing the decision by Mr John Wakeham, the Energy Secretary, to restructure the British Coal balance sheet. This, he added, would allow it to deal with past losses and liabilities — because of large-scale redundancies in past years British Coal now has nine pensioners for every one employee — and to revalue its assets."

Sir Robert said that the British Coal policy of keeping price rises to a minimum had cost it dearly. It has given the power industry a price concession of £1.3 billion by keeping rises below the inflation rate from 1986 and for the length of the new contracts.

He said the coal industry

Kelt sells oil stake for £4.4m

Kelt Energy has sold its 12.5 per cent stake in a North Sea oil licence block — which includes a 2.1 per cent share in the Balmoral Field — for £4.4 million. Arco bought 9.2 per cent for £3.3 million and Goral Petroleum 3.3 per cent for £1.1 million.

The sale will help Kelt to pay some of the £170 million in short-term debt it has with American Express Bank. But there has been speculation that it will soon announce a big financial restructuring package with medium and long-term lending replacing its Amex loan.

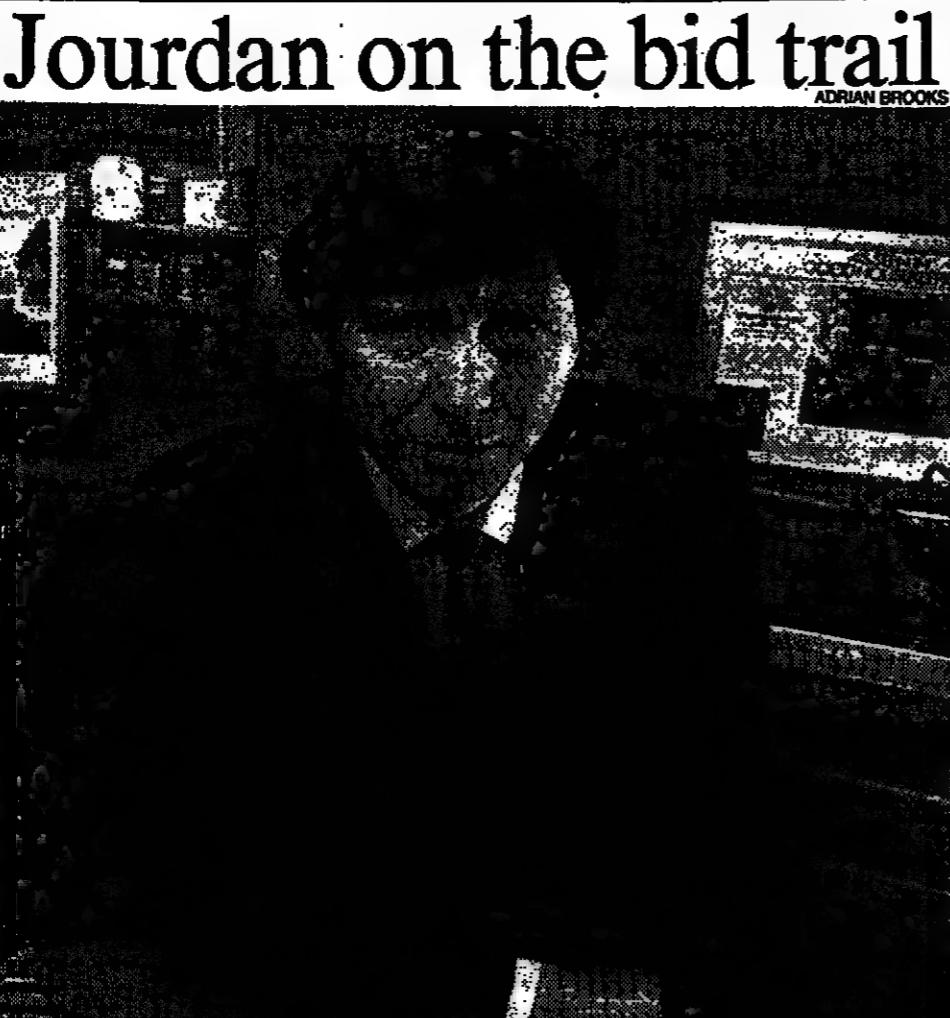
It borrowed £220 million from Amex to finance its takeover of Carless Capel and paid back £130 million on schedule by selling the Carless refining and marketing operations. Since then, however, it has increased its debt, mainly by having to meet its share of the development costs of the BP Wytch Farm onshore field in Dorset.

It now has to meet the remaining debt payments between April and June and its management has already started talks on a refinancing package.

Kelt also announced yesterday that it has started appraisal drilling of its oil discovery on an onshore site near Goodwood in West Sussex.

Find for Elf

Elf Aquitaine Syria has made its first oil find in Syria, in the second well drilled on the Dair Es Zor permit in eastern Syria, its parent company, France's Elf Aquitaine, said.



Dreaming of a bright pre-Christmas climate: Keith Whitten, chairman of Thomas Jourdan. Thomas Jourdan, whose consumer product interests range from Coxby trouser presses to kitchen and bedroom furniture, is on the look out for acquisitions because it believes difficulties in the market place could present business opportunities, Colin Campbell writes.

Jourdan has appointed Leonard Brothers, the merchant

bank, to pursue opportunities, though it concedes after a 1989 profit drop that this year could be another difficult one for consumer confidence.

"The real test for us is around September in front of the Christmas season by which time we hope consumers are feeling warm and happy," Mr Keith Whitten, the chairman, says. Pre-tax profits in

the year ended December 31 slipped from £2.87 million to £2.11 million on sales of £38.3 million (£30.2 million). Mr Whitten says profits were affected by weak markets for consumer goods.

The dividend is maintained at 5.6p, with a final of 4.1p, payable May 8. Net earnings for the year were 8.47p a share compared with 12.4p.

Mirman 'to stay at Sock Shop'

By Gillian Bowditch

Miss Sophie Mirman, founder of Sock Shop, said yesterday that neither she nor her husband and partner, Mr Richard Ross, would step down or hand over the day-to-day running of Sock Shop to others.

Speculation that they would

be "totally unfounded",

Miss Mirman said.

Announcing the departure of Mr Peter Moss, the corporate finance director, she said: "Richard and I are working together as a team. We built up Sock Shop together and whatever mistakes have been made and whatever we've gone through, we've been through it together. We will continue as a team."

Sir Robert said these would have to be revalued to reflect the recent enormous changes in the market for fossil fuels. "The rewards the industry is likely to earn in the marketplace of the future will not justify a value of £4 billion for deep-mined assets."

Sir Robert said that the

British Coal policy of keeping price rises to a minimum had cost it dearly. It has given the power industry a price concession of £1.3 billion by keeping rises below the inflation rate from 1986 and for the length of the new contracts.

He said the coal industry

Banks protest over Bill side-effects

By Angela Mackay

The British Bankers' Association is protesting against the side effects of The Criminal Justice (International Co-Operation) Bill, which today enters the Committee stage in the Commons.

The legislation is aimed at detecting drug money-laundering in Britain, but the additional protocol attached to the Bill brings fiscal offences — primarily tax-related and not generally the subject of criminal prosecutions — within the scope of the European Con-

vention on Mutual Assistance into Criminal Matters.

The association said the inclusion of fiscal offences within the Bill has been justified as a means of enabling the Inland Revenue to obtain evidence from other countries which may be used in British criminal prosecutions.

According to Mr David Elvidge, association chairman and the taxation director of Barclays Bank, the inclusion of fiscal offences achieves nothing for Britain unless other

countries adopt the additional protocol which would give reciprocity to Britain.

He said: "The UK is inviting any other country which alleges a fiscal offence against one of its citizens to obtain confidential information, for example details of bank accounts, information in accountants' records and commercial information generally, in circumstances where the alleged offence may not be an offence under UK law and where the British authorities

themselves have no power to obtain such information."

The association said the Bill should be amended to make it clear it will not include fiscal offences. "If someone is robbing a bank or selling cocaine, the law is fairly clear about the illegality no matter which country is concerned. But with fiscal offences the nuances of the law change from country to country and the UK would be loath to breach banker-client confidentiality without reciprocity."

Gwent Steel's annual turn-

over is about £30 million.

The company is based at Newport, South Wales.

Hoesch is believed to have been among a number of recent suitors anxious to arrange a deal with Gwent.

Stands packed to the brim

If you are hoping for a juicy corporate invite to what looks like being one of the sporting events of the year, forget it. Ian McLauchlan Associates, which holds the sole rights to corporate hospitality tickets at Murrayfield for the March 17 England-Scotland game, says all its allocation of 1,000 seats went months ago. "There's always strong demand for the Calcutta Cup, however the teams are doing," says McLauchlan. Otherwise you might try being friendly to the Scottish financial mafia, always well provided with tickets — most big institutions up there have their own debenture seats and are saved the indignity of going through corporate hospitality brokers.

Cruel spoof

There are certain letters so embarrassing that you regret ever opening them. One such arrived, addressed to a former editor of this diary now on another newspaper, telling her she had been shortlisted for a job in public relations and giving details of her interview. Resisting the temptation to call around various mutual friends in the Press and gossip on her misfortune, this diary did the decent thing and made a quiet phone call. But the whole thing is in fact a cruel spoof, dreamt up by the publishers of the forthcoming *Return of the Complete Revenge Kit*, due out just in time for April 1. The first book in the series, some five years ago, featured a number of juvenile

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Govett leaves the board

BILL GOVETT is stepping down from the board of the investment group that bears his name, Berkeley Govett, to head related investment trusts, including the new Hungarian Investment Company. His departure from the board marks the end of a long stint on the board of John Govett, founded by his father, which

hoaxes including indiscreet letters from certain private clinics and caused no little controversy. This time round, we are promised, the jokes have mellowed a little. Be warned.

Linking up

An old partnership will be

revived when Martin Gordon

joins Panmure Gordon Investment Management from

Kleinwort Benson to oversee its business development and client liaison. He and its managing director since the start of last year, Richard Williams, previously worked together at Hill Samuel Investment Management. Two other fund managers are also joining Panmure, Keith Yarwood and Ian Carville, doubling the team on the investment management side.

Unkind cut

My knowledge of Tagalog is I

admit, limited. But I think

that if pressing need ever

struck I would probably look

for a better interpreter than

that used by the local council

of San Jose in California when

it wanted to put up a 30ft

banner across the main street

to welcome a visiting party

from the Philippines. The

banner should have read *tuloy*

po kaya — "Welcome Filipinos."

themselves have no power to

obtain such information."

The association said the Bill should be amended to make it clear it will not include fiscal offences. "If someone is robbing a bank or selling cocaine, the law is fairly clear about the illegality no matter which country is concerned. But with fiscal offences the nuances of the law change from country to country and the UK would be loath to breach banker-client confidentiality without reciprocity."

Gwent Steel's annual turn-

over is about £30 million.

The company is based at Newport, South Wales.

Hoesch is believed to have been among a number of recent suitors anxious to arrange a deal with Gwent.

COMMENT David Brewerton

ICI comes out on the side of the bulls

Said quickly, the decision by Imperial Chemical Industries to take powers to buy in up to 10 per cent of its shares does not seem to amount to much. Many companies have taken similar powers, and some have used them quite extensively. The move by ICI, however, is on a different scale from most, simply because to buy in a tenth of the company's equity would cost around £750 million. That amount of new money going into the equity market as a whole would bring a sparkle to the jaded eyes of the market makers: that amount into ICI alone would send the price through the roof.

ICI has no plans to mount a dawn raid on itself, but there are a number of compelling reasons why the power to buy its own shares is unlikely to lie dormant in the company armoury.

The first is that, while the price can be expressed as cheap or dear according to fundamental analysis of earnings and dividends, the final arbitration takes place between buyers and sellers. By bringing itself into the market as buyer, ICI ought to be able to outgun potential sellers. At the very least, this should stabilize the price: if the power is used with anything approaching aggression, it should send the price higher.

The group has a good deal of headroom before buying in becomes uneconomic. On the basis of 15 per cent interest rates, it can buy at an historic price/earnings ratio up to 10.3 before earnings begin to be diluted rather than enhanced. Thus the company would be able to bid up to beyond 1350p before the game ceased to be worth the candle. Compared with the current share price of 1089p, that is music to the ears of ICI shareholders. The move will also have a beneficial effect on sentiment in the US, where the decision to buy in means either great confidence on the part of the management or the scent of a takeover bid.

Back in the realms of fundamental analysis, ICI shares are lowly rated against the market and prospectively yielding half a point or more above the 6 per cent at which it is usually safe to buy them. The tension in the market may not be finally resolved for several months, but ICI has struck a blow for the bulls.

Action on the dollar

Central bank co-operation in the currency markets is alive and well. Yesterday, practically every central bank one had ever heard of, and a few one had not, entered the market to try and beat the dollar back into its box. They had a fair degree of success, pushing the currency back below DM1.70, which is usually regarded as the bottom end of the original "Louvre"

range agreed in the context of the Louvre accord in February, 1987. But, by the close, the US currency had recovered some of its losses, ending less than a pence down on its previous close at DM1.7045.

In spite of the show of central bank solidarity, it is not clear that the interests of all parties are pointing in the same direction. Manuel Johnson, the deputy chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, was quoted on Friday as saying that the firmness in the dollar had provided a bit more breathing space in the fight against inflation. But the Bundesbank is unwilling to see a depreciation of the mark for the same reason — that it would be inflationary in Germany. It would also, the Bundesbank explains, be inappropriate for a country with the world's largest trade

surplus.

If the world's monetary mandarins want to set new target ranges or arrange new offensives in currency markets they have a convenient opportunity at the meeting of Working Party 3 of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development — the forum for balance of payments discussions — now under way in the suburbs of Tokyo. More likely, however, any substantive decisions will be deferred until the ministerial Group of Seven meeting either in April or before the International Monetary Fund meeting at the beginning of May.

Thorny questions

Thorn EMI is sticking rigidly to its refusal to comment on reports from Los Angeles that it is about to buy Mr David Geffen's Geffen Records for a massive \$700 million. Such information, it warns, is price-sensitive and not for general circulation.

Battered Thorn shareholders might be forgiven for thinking of horses and stable doors, given the £1-plus slump in the company's share price since the start of last month, when the rumours started to circulate. The shares lost another 4p to 687p yesterday as *The Wall Street Journal* became the latest to pick up the tale. The reason for the market's fear is obvious; \$700 million is a hefty sum to pay for a business in the notoriously fickle music industry.

Mr Geffen is one of the sharpest operators in the US music industry, even if most of the artists he is associated with have something of a 1970s ring to them. He, of course, has no private shareholders to worry about or Stock Exchange regulations to limit any announcements he makes.

But it should not be beyond the abilities of the finest minds at Thorn to draft some kind of announcement to put its shareholders' minds at rest without giving away too many negotiating points.

155p in cash

for each Ordinary Share of

HARTWELL plc

Acceptances from Hartwell Shareholders must be received by 1.00 pm

MONDAY 12TH MARCH, 1990

OR
YOU CAN SELL YOUR
HARTWELL ORDINARY SHARES
NOW FOR 155p *

*The Jameel Group reserves the right to revise the Offers if a competitive situation arises. [†]Acceptances must be received by 1.00 pm on 12th March 1990 unless the Increased and Final Offers are declared unconditional as to acceptances (whereupon the Increased and Final Offers will remain open for a further 14 days). *For advice as to how you sell your shares for cash, consult your stockbroker or other independent financial adviser. References to 155p are before transaction costs. Cash settlement terms apply. This invitation extends to the closing date of the Offers.

Copies of the New Form of Acceptance may be obtained from Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Issue Section, PO Box 1000, 11 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 3LB. Telephone: 01-623 1288.

Martin Waller

BUSINESS LETTERS

A heartfelt plea to set 'free enterprise' free

From Mr John Nash

Sir, There are a number of high-growth developing and re-developing nations in the world, all making the grade through free enterprise at every level of their economies. These successful countries have one thing in common: large informal sectors (villified here as the 'black economy') that are highly competitive and adaptive, feeding human enterprise into the grass-roots of successful growth.

As a small manufacturer, I need the patronage of big business, not the patronage of leeches. I am damned if I am going to mortgage my life away and work 100 profitless hours a week because "It is my duty."

Instead of welcoming the backward micro-manufacturer, we label him as a social criminal and use every weapon imaginable, from planning regs to DSS raids to stop him growing up into a successful contributor.

It is time we set free enterprise free, by giving informal status to starter businesses and waiving the

impossible statutory burden on them. It is no good nurturing the trade figures; these are bodes of Wabentzi loose in our land; they demand money and then used the same money to shoot us in both feet. (The Wabentzi are a bureaucracy in Africa, who grow no crops and make no sandals, but still manage to own a Mercedes-Benz.)

A week of British advice to starter businesses consists of four hours on profit-comparison and four days on statutory requirements. Compare this to one Soichiro Honda, who stood on an orange box in his Tokyo garage in 1948, and said to his handful of employees "Gentlemen, we are going global."

Yours faithfully,
JOHN NASH,
52 Kernick Way,
Hayle,
Cornwall.

holders in this country. The next stage is to put on this wide base of share owners to encourage private investors to expand their portfolios.

We hope that by allowing other financial intermediaries to become part of the new issue process, banks, building societies and investment advisers in every high street will in time respond to customer demand and offer share dealing services. This is not an abdication of our responsibilities; it demonstrates the commitment of the International Stock Exchange to their private clients about the suitability of the issue and ensure that investors are not left simply holding shares, but know where to seek advice and how to buy and sell shares through the trading market.

The Review Committee also recommended that large new issues of shares should con-

tinue to have a proportion marketed to all investors through the offer for sale procedure.

Given that the "time-warp

Britain needs family firms

From Mr Adrian T. M. Elliott

Sir, In their otherwise excellent analysis of what is wrong in Britain, Mr Peter Morgan and Sir Jeffrey Sterling make one major omission; they fail to note the startling lack of middle-sized family-owned companies in Britain, in comparison with those of Germany.

Fifty years of socialist taxation, and of the reign of an Establishment ignoramus of business, did fatally weaken our family businesses. They were finally done to death by the clutch monetarism of early Thatcher. The ownership of the time are now scattered investors instead.

It is only the family-owned business which has the incentive to sow the seed today that the harvest may be reaped a generation later.

Given that the "time-warp" and the "salaris" are on the run, a policy dedicated to nurturing the family and its business could even yet grow this fundamental bone structure for the body politic; but it will take 50 years to do. Yours truly,

ADRIAN T. M. ELLIOTT,
The Old Vicarage,
All Souls Road,
South Ascot,
Berkshire.
February 28.

Liability on advice

From Mr John Constable
CBE, C Eng, FICE, FRICS,
FI Munc E, PPI Hoag E

Sir, The situation on legal responsibility for "negligence" is even more difficult to understand than Mr Taylor describes (March 2). If, over the fence, I am asked for, and give, an opinion on some house maintenance problem, then I am liable to be held responsible "in negligence" because my neighbour was aware that I used to have some responsibility in that field of knowledge.

That the advice is given free is apparently of no significance.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CONSTABLE,
14 Church Street,
Pershore,
Worcestershire.
March 3.

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There is clearly a free-market case for outwitting this kind of condition as an unjustified restraint of trade which is against the public interest; the outwitting of such conditions would also, of course, remove an artificial pre-credit distortion and thus go some way towards reducing consumer credit demand.

Credit card companies currently impose a condition on all their merchant-agents prohibiting the agent from differential pricing by, for instance, offering discounts for payment by cash or cheque

and to the credit card companies may well be dented by such a freezing of the real price of credit, but the Government would be wise to weigh the free-trade and public interest arguments in favour of such an approach against the commercial interests of the card companies in maintaining their present restrictive practices.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WESTON,
14 The Broadway,
Brighton Road,
Worthing,
West Sussex.

Share ownership

From the Chairman, Initial Public Offers Review Committee, The International Stock Exchange

Sir, Your Comment of March 1, "Misplaced emphasis at SE" gave a misleading impression of the recent report on Initial Public Offers. Far from suggesting that "wider share ownership is not something members need to be bothered about" the report of my Review Committee reinforces the role of Stock Exchange Member Firms in fostering wider and deeper share ownership.

The present method of responding to offers for sale through application forms in newspapers has undoubtedly helped to create a very large number of individual share-

holders in this country. The next stage is to put on this wide base of share owners to encourage private investors to expand their portfolios.

We hope that by allowing other financial intermediaries to become part of the new issue process, banks, building societies and investment advisers in every high street will in time respond to customer demand and offer share dealing services. This is not an abdication of our responsibilities; it demonstrates the commitment of the International Stock Exchange to their private clients about the suitability of the issue and ensure that investors are not left simply holding shares, but know where to seek advice and how to buy and sell shares through the trading market.

The Review Committee also recommended that large new issues of shares should con-

tinue to have a proportion marketed to all investors through the offer for sale procedure.

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Credit alternative

From Mr David Weston

Sir, The current political debate over "credit controls" as a means of dampening excessive consumer credit demand has overlooked a very simple alternative mechanism which would use market forces rather than intervention.

Credit card companies currently impose a condition on all their merchant-agents prohibiting the agent from differential pricing by, for instance, offering discounts for payment by cash or cheque

as compared with payment by credit card. This condition has the effect of forcing retailers to subsidise their more costly credit-card sales at the expense of their cash or cheque sales.

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Portfolio

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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If the numbers you have won outright are a sum of the daily prize money stated if you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always keep your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Modest falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 26. Dealings end March 9. Contango day March 12. Settlement day March 19. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sm) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUME: PAGE 257)

No.	Company	Gross	Days or less	High	Low	Close	Price	Offer	Change	Yield	P/E
1	Shield Inst	Building, Roads									
2	Solent Spokesman	Chemicals, Plas									
3	Citra Milling	Foods									
4	INT	Transport									
5	Hawthorn Whiteman	Industrials E-K									
6	Cross	Industrials A-D									
7	Wetherspoons Risk	Chemicals, Plas									
8	Brockton (A)	Textiles									
9	Logi	Chemicals, Plas									
10	Church	Drapery, Stores									
11	Whitman	Industrials S-Z									
12	Grainer	Services									
13	Heads Motor	Motors, Aircraft									
14	Alfred Irish	Banks, Discount									
15	GKN (sm)	Industrials E-K									
16	Sentech 10p (sm)	Paper, Print, Adv									
17	Jordan (Thomas)	Textiles E-K									
18	Exx Data Process	Electronics									
19	Hammond Construction	Property									
20	Eastern	Electronics									
21	Hewitt (J)	Industrials E-K									
22	South Pacific 'A'	Industrials S-Z									
23	Haynes Publishing	Newspapers, Pub									
24	S. U. States	Commerce, Stores									
25	Alphameric	Electronics									
26	Ans New Z	Banks, Discount									
27	Rank Org (sm)	Industrials E-K									
28	Vincent	Industrials S-Z									
29	Macarthy	Industrials I-R									
30	Hartley & Pheasant	Breweries									
31	Third Mile	Industrials S-Z									
32	Tottenham Hotspur	Leisure									
33	Repsol	Industrials A-D									
34	Locher (T)	Industrials I-R									
35	VPI Grp	Paper, Print, Adv									
36	Precision	Banks, Discount									
37	Not Aust Bk	Banks, Discount									
38	Park Foods	Foods									
39	Capita	Industrials A-D									
40	No-Swift	Industrials I-R									
41	Chesilco (H)	Transport									
42	Wembury	Leisure									
43	Ranger	Oil/Gas									
44	Electo	Industrials E-K									
	6 Times Newspapers Ltd.	Daily Total									
Please take into account any minus signs											
Weekly Dividend											
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.											
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
BRITISH FUNDS											
1000/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Open	Close	Int.	Red	Yield	Yield	P/E
SHORTS (Under Five Years)											
101	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
102	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	205
103	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
104	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
105	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
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128	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
129	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
130	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
131	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
132	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
133	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
134	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
135	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
136	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
137	125	125	125	1							

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

UNLISTED SECURITIES

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

MARKET

THIRD MARKET									
100	72	AMN Domes	88	75	..	13	18	18	18
100	48	Amoco	45	45	..	..	..	..	..
94	48	Amoco Ref.	45	45	..	..	..	..	..
100	25	Am. Fertiles	25	25
100	25	AM. Ins.	25	25
100	25	Amoco	25	25
100	25	Amoco Ref.	25	25
100	25	Amoco	25	25

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Payments per file: \$507.50 (023)
Collections per file: \$131.80 (023)
Sum: \$639.30 (023)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES					
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100					
Mar '90	2301.0	2346.5	2233.0	2347.0	1816
Jun '90	2275.0	2308.0	2275.0	2308.0	74
Three Month Sterling					
Mar '90	847.6	847.8	847.1	847.3	6383
Jun '90	842.6	843.8	842.8	843.8	18402
Three Month Eurodollar					
Mar '90	91.29	91.50	91.57	91.59	506
Jun '90	91.51	91.51	91.50	91.50	2326
Three Month Euro DM					
Mar '90	100.00	100.00	99.95	100.00	100
Jun '90	100.00	100.00	99.95	100.00	100
Three month ECU					
Mar '90	85.75	85.75	85.64	85.85	138
Jun '90	85.47	85.47	85.35	85.54	151
US Treasury Bond					
Jun '90	93.01	93.02			
Long GDR					
Jun '90	83.24	83.24			
Japanese Govt Bond					
Jun '90	84.00	84.40			
German Govt Bond					
Jun '90	84.33	84.33			

91.41 91.38 91.41
90.77 90.70 90.77

COMMODITIES										
ICM-LOR Group					LONDON FOX					
The crude oil market continued in the same directionless mood which had been around last week. Products were stable to marginally softer in very light trade.					LONDON METAL EXCHANGE					
CRUDE OILS/Assessed (\$/BBL FOB)	LME FUTURES				COCOA	AMT Futures	Official prices/volume previous day	Rudolf Wohl		
Brent Plaza 18.10	Mar	18.10	May	18.08	Mar 694-698	Dec 757-765	1834.0-1835.0	586175	Very Stable	
15 day Mar 18.15	May	18.15	May	705-705	May 758-777	755.00	447.50-448.00	70125	Bdry Stable	
15 day Apr 18.30	May	18.30	May	720-721	May 755-753	727-725	n/a	21975	Quiet	
WTI Apr 21.40	May	21.40	Jul	733-731	Vol 5763	735-735	1480.0-1491.0	140375	Bdry Stable	
WTI May 21.45	May	21.45	Jun	182.50-182.00	COFFEE	1512.0-1515.0	1480.0-1482.0	6625-6530	4575 Steadier	
PRODUCTS/Beyond \$/MT.					AMT Futures	Mar 699-696	1545.0-1546.0	6800-6825	8575-8600	Steady
Spot CIF HW Euro - product delivery					Zinc HI Gds*	Jan 735-735	1548.0-1547.0	320100	Bdry Stable	
Prem Gas 15 -2	216-217	-2	May	707-705	Zinc Spec HI*	Jul 755-748	6900-6925	12384		
Gasoil EEC 172-174			May	719-718	Vol 6091	755-753				
Non 1H Apr 164-166			Jun	180.50 BYR	C Czamitow	800-800				
Non 1H May +1. 169-164	+1.	169-164	Jul	180.50 BYR	FOB	Vol 4288				
3.5 Full Oil -1	-1	96-96	Aug	182.75-181.75	May 200.0-208.0	Dec 317.4-30.0				
Naphtha 177-179			Sep	185.25 SLR	Aug 323.4-29.2	Mar 297.4-27.2				
IMPEX					Oct 319.4-16.8	May 299.4-36.0				
GME Freight Futures: Dry Cargo (\$/tmcu)					LONDON GRAIN FUTURES					
Mar 90 HI 1855-1833 Low 1806			May	18.25-18.27	WHEAT close	Vol 170	LONDON MEAT FUTURES (kg)			
Apr 90 HI 1855-1861 Low 1868			Vol	5776	WHEAT close	Vol 170	MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION			
Jul 90 HI 1835-1832 Low 1836					Mr 112.35 My 116.50 Jn 117.45	Mr 119.0 Open 118.8 Close 118.8 (kg/tw)	Avg'ge活stock prices at representative			
Oct 90 HI 1840-1840 Low 1848					Sp 108.30 Nv 108.40 Ja 113.00	GB (p) 96.00	Pig Sheep Cattle			
Vol 110 lots Open Interest 49/7					BARLEY close	Vol 170	GB (+/-) -1.58 +11.90	+0.44		
Dry cargo index 1810 +1					Mr 107.70 My 107.70 Sp 103.40	Aug 112.8 Open 114.0 Close 114.0 (kg/tw)	+14.8 -10.5	-16.8		
LONDON POTATO FUTURES (pence)					Mr 106.90 Ja 110.35 Mr 112.40	Oct 120.5 Open 119.5 Close 119.5 (kg/tw)	96.16	218.82	111.06	
LONDON SOYBEAN AMT Futures					Live Cattle Contract					
Mar 90 217.5	Apr	217.5	May	221.0	Apr 122.5 Open 121.5 Close 121.5 (kg/tw)	Apr 119.0 Open 118.8 Close 118.8 (kg/tw)	-1.83 +11.68	+0.33		
May 90 99.0	May	99.0	Nov	111.0	May 121.0-20.0	May 120.0 Open 119.5 Close 119.5 (kg/tw)	-66.5 -40.8	-30.2		
Feb 91 113.0	Feb	113.0	Vol 713	Vol 20.0	Dec 128.0-26.5	Jun 121.0 Open 120.0 Close 120.0 (kg/tw)	-2.98 -12.03	-1.62		

1 METAL EXCHANGE
by Barbara Day, *Business Week*

	3 month	Vol	Term
1.0	1534.0-1595.0	686175	Very Sticky
5.00	447.50-448.00	70125	Brit Sticky
11.0	n/a	21975	Calm
15.0	1480.0-1482.0	140975	Brit Sticky
402	6625-6630	4575	Steadier
46.0	1546.0-1547.0	320100	Brit Sticky
825	8575-8600	12384	Steady
or tonnes			

110

Exporting Britain's business expertise

Britain has more management consultants than almost any country in the world and numbers continue to grow, in good times and bad. Contrary to pessimistic expectations, last year was a buoyant one for the profession: the Management Consultancies' Association says fees earned in Britain increased from £350 million to £377 million.

But the rise in overseas earnings was proportionately much greater – from £33 million to £76 million. By far the biggest export markets are in Europe, where earnings rose from £20 million to £46 million.

The Bank of England regards management consultancy as an increasingly important source of invisible export earnings, offsetting losses from the securities business as London's financial supremacy fades. The bank expects that consultancies will soon recruit qualified people from the contracting securities houses. Their arrival should ease staff shortages and enhance consultants' profits by limiting the salaries spiral.

Yet despite recent expansion, David Miller, the association's president, views the economic climate as "more uncertain than several years". He says: "High interest rates, reduced retail spending and sluggish manufacturing output have created a cautious mood. Few expect the

The UK's management consultancy industry is booming following an increase in business from international clients, David Rudnick reports

recent growth in the domestic market to continue at the same high levels through the early 1990s."

But the Government's determination to cut public-sector spending is bringing a bonanza for management consultants. Last year central government spent at least £113 million on consultancy, and it is increasing its annual spending by more than 30 per cent a year, according to the journal *Management Consultancy*.

The market for public-sector consultancy services, according to estimates, could be worth a third of all the fees earned by British consultancies. However, Whitehall's use of private-sector consultants will probably be more rigorously scrutinized now that a report has been published revealing that this spending in the Health and Social Security departments has leapt in recent years by 1,000 per cent.

An analysis of the source of consultancy fees earned in Britain during 1989 shows that information technology (£177 million) led

the field, followed by finance and administration (£148 million). These two sectors accounted for 56 per cent of all fees. IT these days offers self-generating business, given the dynamic state of computer-based technology and companies' needs to keep abreast of the latest developments.

In the association's recent survey about the concerns of chief executives, one in five mentioned IT as a key issue for the 1990s. Twice as many cited "people availability", and nearly a third chose the single European market. But 84 per cent put human resources management issues among their top three concerns. This is reflected in the expanding role of human resource specialists in consultancies.

Competition is strong and the main consultancies are jockeying more than ever for a market share. The association estimates that Coopers Deloitte, being formed by the imminent merger of Coopers & Lybrand and Deloitte Haskins & Sells, will be the largest consultancy practice in Britain, fol-

lowed by PA, Peat Marwick McLintock, Arthur Andersen and Price Waterhouse.

The increasingly international scale of management consultancy is making the big businesses bigger to enable them to service international clients. But a factor limiting growth in size is the tendency of clients to avoid using the same consultancy as a competitor. Further growth in corporate scale is therefore likely to come from mergers and acquisitions.

Management consultants have traditionally been feared by management as company doctors whose presence on the premises a client would do anything to conceal. Today, far less shame attaches to bringing in professional expertise to advise on corporate problems. Far from denoting ill health, willingness to hire outside consultants might well indicate managerial determination to streamline operations, cut costs and improve profitability.

Despite the growing internationalism of management consultancy, foreign competition is causing little anxiety. "National European firms like Roland Berger in Germany, or Berenschot in The Netherlands, exert little competitive influence," Mr Miller says. "But a number of medium-sized European firms are approaching UK firms to create European groupings, and these could spell more competition."



Caption: David Miller, president of the Management Consultancies' Association, says the future is uncertain

Managers are increasingly turning to information technology to give their companies a competitive edge in the market.

The potential of IT is so great that the Government has announced that it plans to provide a third of the £3 million required for an initiative to boost the competitive use of IT by British companies.

The initiative, called Gemini, is the first of its kind in Europe. It is aimed at helping the private and public sectors respond to the challenges of the European single market.

The increasing use of IT to sharpen the competitive edge of businesses and organizations can,

Information technology is being used to equip Britain for entry into the single European market

Technology lends a sharper edge

according to George Cox, managing director of Butler Cox, a leading management consultancy, put down to a number of factors:

- The continued development of the technology itself, with increased power, new capability, and vastly changed economics.
- The continued move of computing into everyday life.
- Changing telecommunications, which provide an infrastructure

that makes global trading a possibility and will make electronic data interchange a norm.

• The growth of the installed systems base, meaning that much of the data needed for competitive-edge applications is already being captured and processed.

• The increasing number of line managers who understand what the technology might do.

• The increasing use of informa-

tion technology at the "sharp end" of the business.

But using these new systems to meet needs is often beyond the scope of in-house systems managers because they do not have the resources to keep pace with the advances in IT.

A common problem is that the in-house systems manager is still regarded as a senior specialist, not a senior member of management.

He is not brought into strategic thinking early enough.

This partly explains why IT remains the largest business of management consultants. The turnover for the 30 members of the Management Consultancies' Association alone was worth £177 million.

And there is a high penalty for getting the system's infrastructure wrong. Andrew Davies, an IT

director with Touche Ross, has been asked to resolve 10 problem projects worth at least £125 million in the past three years.

"All but one of the projects were of such a scale that their problems had an impact upon the business that was much greater than the project cost," he says.

Mr Cox believes the future hangs in the balance for the systems manager. "On the

opportunity side, there are three powerful weights – the greater demand for systems, the greater importance of systems, and the greater facilities with which these systems can be delivered," he says.

But there is the threat that organizations will fail to recognize the potential of systems, and, therefore, the role of the systems manager. Mr Cox believes that the opportunities will outweigh the threats. "Many corporations may conclude that no strong, overall approach to information systems is necessary," he says. "It is a view that may not survive for long, but perhaps long enough to see off many corporate systems chiefs."

Michael Hatfield



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The Executive Director of the Association maintains records of the specialist skills and industry experience of member firms. He is in a position to provide potential clients with a shortlist of member firms whose project experience matches the task in view. Such advice is impartial and confidential.

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Please send details of the Association and the services your member firms provide

Name _____ Firm _____

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Three routes to success

A profitable market trend provides the incentive for Britain's best to take up the challenge of 1992, David Rudnick writes

Management consultants are well placed to benefit from the challenges facing business, as 1992 and the single European market loom ever nearer. Figures from the Management Consultancies' Association already show an accelerating trend in fees earned in the European Community - up 55 per cent in 1988, then more than doubling again in 1989 to a total of £36 million. West Germany (£7.2 million) is the largest single market, despite also being one of the toughest to crack. Belgium is next best earner (£6 million), because of its central location and the attraction of Brussels for companies wishing to be based at the Community's nerve centre.

Information technology (£11.3 million) and manufacturing management and technology (£7.2 million) bring in the biggest money.

The association has adopted as its theme for 1990 the "practical implications of managing the European dimension". David Miller, the association's president, sees three broad categories of consultancy busi-

nesses emerging across Europe during the next 10 years.

The first type, he believes, will be characterized by size. These businesses will be large accountancy-based firms providing a wide range of services in virtually every Community country.

The second will be based on specialization. Companies will be smaller in size, but determined to spread their specialized skills - in providing logistical advice, for example - over as wide an area as possible.

Mr Miller sees the third type of consultancy as the stay-at-home, nationally based firm, enormously strong in its own country and uninterested in expansion across Community frontiers.

All Britain's big firms are gearing up for the European future. Peat Marwick McLintock (part of Klynveld Peat Marwick Goedecker - KPMG) has recruited Lord Cockfield, a former vice-president of the EC Commission, and a prime mover in the 1992 campaign, as a special adviser.

KPMG reckons it has already earned £3 million from Community



Lord Cockfield: experienced recruit based assignments, including location studies for American and Japanese clients - "gateway" commissions for which British firms are particularly suited to help non-Community companies establish themselves inside the Community tariff wall.

Another British firm, Stoy Hayward, has set up an Action Centre Europe in the United States to advise businessmen on their strategy for post-1992 Europe.

The firm publishes in Britain a snappy little booklet, "1992 and

Beyond", which offers news and views on everything concerning the single market from tax advice to a glossary of Euro-jargon.

Keeping abreast of Community rules and regulations and advising on their likely impact on clients' interests is proving to be a particularly useful service, given the flood of legislation issuing from the Commission.

When it comes to broader questions of strategy the questions that arise are:

- What sort of growth would best suit the client - merger, acquisition, franchising, licensing or joint venture?
- Should he expand rapidly and go for broke with all the attendant risks, or build up his market presence more cautiously?

Finding suitable people for the jobs involved in resolving these questions is emerging as one of the chief problems facing British industry as it confronts 1992.

Britain's problem is that as a low-salary country - bottom of the Community league except for Greece and Portugal - it finds it hard to attract top-grade managers, while her most enterprising business graduates are eyeing greener pastures across the Channel.

Continental Europeans are much further down the track towards integration than the UK, says John Woodger, group marketing director of MSL. "For them, 1992 is the end date, while for us it's only the starting date."



Confident: "The UK has the most sophisticated management consultancy," Brian O'Rourke says

Challenge of Europe

Brian O'Rourke, executive director of the Management Consultancies' Association, takes a cautiously optimistic view of the prospects facing the profession. He does not expect the high rewards of the expanding Eighties to continue. But he says: "Management consultancy thrives in periods of change. This is, and will continue to be, such a period, so prospects are good if change can be serviced, particularly in eastern Europe."

As proof of commitment, Mr O'Rourke points out that the president of the MCA, David Miller, is based in Brussels as managing director of Coopers & Lybrand Europe. And next year the MCA will be assuming the presidency of the European Federation of Management Consultants' Associations.



NHS costs are under review - but some things, like the urgency of a patient being rushed into casualty, never change

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East meets West at management level

Eastern Europe is looking to the West for the management skills it lacks, David Rudnick reports

There is an unprecedented need for high-level management expertise throughout Eastern Europe to carry through the profound economic reforms of *perestroika* - restructuring.

Demand for Western management consultancy services is booming and is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

Western consultants are performing several roles. They are helping to reshape Eastern European management systems, retrain and upgrade local managers, transfer Western management know-how, develop links with Western businesses and assist the emerging private sector.

But while the need may be unlimited, effective demand for these consultancy services is constrained by foreign exchange shortages, by unclear local knowledge of what consultants do and how they operate, and by uncertainty about important macro-economic decisions.

Where World Bank projects have started or are in preparation, they generally involve using and promoting local consultants.

Viewed from the West, the



Wheels of change: the West is being increasingly sought by Eastern Europe to provide management advice for *perestroika*

Young Bonitas, the first Hungarian-Western accounting and consulting firm.

Last year this firm acted as midwife at the birth of Hungary's first management-employee buyout, the purchase by a Western-backed sys-

tem of a State-owned stationery company, Apisz. Last year Coopers & Lybrand in West Germany and Austria to set up a Hungarian firm in Budapest.

This is a joint venture with office in Budapest. Vicky Pryce, chief economist at KPMG, says the firm is active in Hungary, joining forces with Coopers & Lybrand in West Germany and Austria to set up a Hungarian firm in Budapest.

Last summer KPMG Peat Marwick entered the busy Hungarian scene, opening an

in January, at a meeting

organized jointly by the Adam Smith Institute and the British Council in Budapest, KPMG executives discussed privatization schemes with planning ministers and political party leaders.

"Since then," she says, "a number of invitations have been issued to the firm by Hungarian joint stock companies of hybrid private-

Nor is it helped by uncertain laws on property rights and an antiquated accounting system.

KPMG is, nevertheless, advising the Polish Government on privatization, with the help of the Adam Smith Institute and the financial help of the British Government's know-how fund.

Three members of the Pol-

'Demand for . . . consultancy services is constrained by foreign exchange shortages, unclear local knowledge of what consultants do . . . and by uncertainty about important macro-economic decisions'

ish privatization unit recently underwent training at KPMG's London offices, based on British experience of privatization.

In Poland and other East European countries, British companies have a traditional advantage over the West German competition, but in East Germany the opposite applies.

KPMG is starting to work in East Germany, however. It is collaborating with one of the big West German banks, on providing strategic advice for companies considering the acquisition of interests in East Germany.

Why people are at the top of the problems list

People problems head the list of worries for British chief executives in the Nineties, according to a recent survey by the Management Consultancies' Association.

The problems of recruiting and keeping the right personnel are creating most anxiety in public-sector organizations and in retailing and distribution.

The main concern in virtually all sectors is that the supply of skilled and qualified staff will not keep pace with demand.

Many consultants view this as the essence of the challenge for staff management specialists. Typical of the problems faced by management are failure to attract, select, or keep high-calibre staff, ineffective organization and deployment of staff management resources, and confusion arising from inadequate job definition and unclear objectives.

Consultants are depressed by a recent MORI survey, "Blueprint for Success", which found that most British companies still believe they can solve staff problems by offering higher salaries to attract and retain staff rather than by providing adequate in-house training.

However, there are some areas of enlightenment. Bob Simm, a human resources specialist and partner in KPMG Peat Marwick, says Marks & Spencer, Ford, IBM and some accounting firms show unusual flair and imagination in their approach to training and management development.

KPMG designs programmes for its clients. A client sends a targeted manager or, perhaps, a short-listed applicant - to KPMG, where he or she is subjected to a series of tests to determine suitability for the position.

Staff training, particularly for management, is becoming one of the fastest-growing areas of consultancy. Five years ago, KPMG had three specialists in the area. Now it employs 120. Mr Simm attributes the increase to the

A new outlook on staff management is dawning among British business - and results are already being seen in the boardrooms

greater sophistication of clients, and the fact that more people with specialist training are reaching boardroom level.

The Government is doing its bit to help smaller companies - those employing fewer than 500 staff - which need, but cannot afford to hire, consultants' services. The Business Growth Training scheme seeks to improve staff training and management in smaller businesses.

But what of the consultants themselves? Many find fulfilment as analyst and adviser to client companies. But for others consultancy is a career move leading to a top job in active management.

Consultancy training and experience are seen as a good background for a manager, giving him or her a detached perspective and an objective approach to problems. Similarly, management consultants generally find that the more on-the-job experience a consultant has, the more practical and realistic they are likely to be as an analyst.

But not everyone has such an optimistic view. Academic ability and some problem-solving experience do not necessarily make a good manager, says Anthony Hapgood, a director of Tootal and formerly of the Boston Consulting Group. "The average consultant who has served in a consultancy for five years is very ill-practised at making decisions," he says.

The real barrier preventing industry from attracting consultant talent is pay. Industry salaries lag well behind consultants', although the gap is narrowing, Mr Hapgood says.

David Rudnick

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THE LAW

Opening the Bar door to minorities

In a recent speech on racism in the criminal justice system, the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Roy Hattersley, threw out a challenge to the Bar. More black judges and black magistrates were needed, he said. Changes had to be made in the choice and training of magistrates and judges to enable them to understand the problems of the ethnic minorities.

The Bar would be obliged to bring forward positive proposals to encourage more people from the black and Asian minorities to seek a career within the legal profession. He was determined to open up the profession.

What he said has long been of concern to the Bar Council. We are doing a lot already to meet Mr Hattersley's concerns. But we cannot solve these problems without help from others.

What are we doing already? The Bar accepts that black barristers are subject to racial discrimination both from inside and, more significantly, from outside the Bar. It is determined to fight this evil. It has pressed the Government to change the law in order to ban discrimination against barristers.

It has a strong race-relations committee, chaired by a High Court judge, which reports monthly to a main committee of



The Bar is seeking to end the racism faced by black barristers from within

and outside the profession. Peter Cresswell, QC, reports

the Bar Council. It has entrenched in its rules of conduct a ban on racial discrimination. It also insists on the observance of a Code of Good Practice in the treatment of pupils and tenants.

There is a critical need to break down the isolation undoubtedly felt by barristers in those sets I have visited four such sets recently, and their members talked frankly about the difficulties they faced. As a rule, white firms of solicitors do not send work to them, however well-equipped they may be to understand and serve the interests of the firm's clients.

In 1984 black barristers were identified in only 48 sets of chambers. The figure is now nearer 180 and is growing fast. Able black barristers are now coming to the Bar and are finding places in first-class sets of chambers in briefing barristers from those sets is patchy.

Paradoxically, these barristers often have a valuable understanding of the language and customs of defendants from their own ethnic background, in addition to experience in appearing

against the Crown in such cases. These assets, however, go unrecognized.

Also unrecognized is the need to give such barristers work to equip them for future roles as immigration adjudicators, tribunal chairmen or recorders, for which they are ideally suited if British justice for ethnic minorities is to be seen to be fair.

Unequal opportunity at the start becomes more unequal if barristers do not receive work they are qualified to do because of the colour of their skin.

Last month, a party was held in Middle Temple Hall for barristers from these sets. This month, a number of these sets will be "twinned" with criminal and common law sets in a determined effort to build bridges of understanding between different sections of the Bar and to provide help to sets which are likely underfunded.

The Bar is anxious to pass back to the educational world the message that it cannot combat



Black judges needed: Hattersley



There is good will: Justice Brooke

inequality of opportunity by itself.

Mr Justice Brooke, the chairman of our race-relations committee, has held meetings with representatives of more than 30 sets of London chambers. From these meetings he has learned that there is great good will to accommodate black barristers of sufficient ability in chambers across the Bar.

All too often, however, black students arrive at the Inns of Court School of Law ignorant of the Bar and its ways, and of the

inequality of opportunity by itself.

Mr Justice Brooke has been instrumental in seeking pupils.

The Bar's popular "mini-pupill" arrangements, where students spend a week or two in chambers during vacation, seems little known outside Oxford and London universities. Some students, moreover, seem to be getting thoroughly bad advice from law tutors and careers advisers.

None of these problems can be solved without money. Mr Hattersley attacks the Bar

because he says it is difficult to enter the profession without reasonable financial resources.

Between 1964 and 1979, Labour governments did nothing about the continuing scandal that Bar students receive maintenance and tuition grants from Local Education Authorities, which depend not on ability or aptitude but on where they live.

The Bar's difficulty is well known. It is a profession of individuals. For two years after graduation a barrister is of little economic value to anyone. There can be no charge for his services until he can represent clients. And he often does not stay in the chambers where he was trained.

The Bar Council is determined to increase the growing number of chambers pupillage awards. If this important policy succeeds, it will help the Inns of Court to divert more of its funds to help Bar students at the School of Law.

But I am fearful that unless money is made available from the Government, or from others who understand as well as we do the importance of the issues raised by Mr Hattersley, there is not likely to be enough financial help to go around to help all the black students with potential talent as advocates who LEA refuses to support at our School of Law.

• The author is chairman of the Bar

Queen's Bench Division

Law Report March 6 1990

Sale from unofficial stall not in market overt

Long v Jones and Another
Before Mr Justice Waterhouse
(Judgment February 16)

A sale in a private market held on property adjacent to a property constituted market was not in "market overt" and therefore title did not pass to the purchaser.

Mr Justice Waterhouse so held in the Queen's Bench Division when giving judgment in favour of Mr Norman Long, the plaintiff in his action against Mr Alan Jones, the first defendant, and Mr Albert Skinner, the second defendant, for possession of a painting alleged to have been stolen from his premises.

Section 22 of the Sale of Goods Act 1893 provides: "(1) When goods are sold in market overt, according to the usage of the market, the buyer acquires a good title to the goods, provided he buys them in good faith and without notice of any defect or

want of title on the part of the seller."

Mr Timothy Higginson for Mr Long; Mr Richard Scannell for Mr Jones; Mr Skinner did not appear and was not represented.

MR WATERHOUSE said that a painting, "A Portrait of a Gentleman" attributed to John Brewster and painted in Philadelphia in 1819, was held by Christie's, there being a dispute as to its ownership.

It had been bought by Mr Long from an antique dealer in Harrogate for £240, in 1982 and had disappeared in October 1985 from his business premises where it had hung as a decoration.

Mr Skinner ran a stall on a disused garage forecourt adjacent to the Bermondsey and New Caledonian market but rented by him on a casual basis from a man who in turn rented it from the owner.

His Lordship rejected Mr

He had bought the painting in good faith from a Mr Little for about £140. Mr Little, however, had no title to the painting and passed none to Mr Skinner.

Mr Jones visited the market and bought the painting for £180, then putting it up for sale at Christie's.

It was claimed that good title had passed to him under the Sale of Goods Act 1979 on the basis that although the stall was not within the statutory market (there being limited circumstances under which a market could be established) the sale had been in market overt since the site was one on to which the Bermondsey market had spilled during the last ten years.

Mr Jones had said it was extremely difficult to see where the regular market ended. However, his Lordship was satisfied that Mr Skinner knew that his part was a private market, albeit endorsed by the council.

His Lordship rejected Mr

Scannell's submission that it was a market overt because trading from that position bore none of the hallmarks of the terms of the Sale of Goods Act 1893.

It had not been established by statute and the only way that the court could be convinced that it was a market established by prescription or long modern usage was if it had been open and public and legally constituted, as described in *Lev v Bayes* (1856) 18 CB 599 by Chief Justice Jarvis.

The Court of Appeal, notably Mr Justice Singleton, in *Bishopton Motor Finance Corporation Ltd v Transport Chafer Ltd* ([1949] 1 KB 322, 337) provided high authority for the proposition in *City of Contracts* (26th edition (1989) paragraph 4815).

The essence of a market was its regularity, its conduct in accordance with established usage and the fact that it must be shown to have been established in one of the ways recognized by law — that is, by charter, by prescription or by long continual use, either immemorial or user, or by prescription or by the principle of lost modern grant.

All that had been shown in the instant case was that after the demise of a petrol station, there had developed for a period of eight to ten years a form of private outlet which was owned and operated by an individual, the second defendant had no direct contact and had none of the requirements of association with an established market run by the local council.

Therefore, Mr Jones had failed to establish a sale in market overt and no title had passed and by purchasing and dealing with the picture he had been guilty of the tort of conversion.

Solicitors: Swindall & Co; B. M. Burns & Co, Southwark.

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Court of Appeal

Employee prone to injury cannot sue employer

Whitfield v H. & R. Johnson (Tiles) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Belldam and Sir Roger Ormrod
(Judgment March 2)

The misfortune at which section 72 of the Factories Act 1961 was aimed was to prevent an employer from employing a person to lift or move a load of such excessive weight that it was likely to cause injury to the employee.

The likelihood of injury was to be assessed with regard to whether the weight of the load was appropriate to the sex, build, physique, or other obvious characteristic of the employee in question, and not to any individual weakness, or predisposition of his.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Susan Jane Whitfield, from a decision of Mr Justice Hobhouse dated March 1, 1989 whereby he gave judgment for the defendants, H. & R. Johnson (Tiles) Ltd.

The plaintiff, aged 36, who suffered from a congenital weakness of the spine was employed in the sorting and packing of tiles in the defendants' factory. The defendants neither knew nor had any reason to suspect the plaintiff's weakness.

The work of sorting and packing was done by teams of five workers, one of whom was allocated the task of unloading the tiles from a trolley on to a conveyor belt.

The plaintiff, who had been employed for 11 years, was unloading tiles on to the conveyor belt when she suffered a back injury. She sued the defendants *inter alia*, breach of statutory duty.

Section 72 of the 1961 Act, as amended by the Factories Act 1961 etc (Repeals and Modifications) Regulations (SI 1941 No 1974) provides: "A person shall not be employed to lift, carry or move any load so heavy as to be likely to cause injury to him."

Mr Nicholas Worsley for the plaintiff, Mr Roger Giles for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE BELLDAM said that the plaintiff's case was that the defendants had breached section 72 because they required her to move or lift a load which was so heavy as to be likely to cause her injury.

The judge found that the congenital condition of the plaintiff's back made her specially vulnerable to injury. He described the condition as being

one in which almost any incident of everyday life might trigger the osteo-arthritis that sooner or later she was going to suffer in any event.

The finding is indicative of the degree to which the plaintiff's back was susceptible to injury, were of considerable significance to the question whether or not there was a breach of section 72.

The plaintiff argued that on the basis of the judge's findings he should have found that she was a breach of section 72; that she was employed to lift and move tiles and viewing the matter objectively it was likely that with her condition she would sustain injury.

Accordingly, on the interpretation of the words "likely to cause injury to him" in the judgment in *Bailey v Rolls Royce (1971) Ltd* ([1984] ICR 683), it was immaterial that the defendants were unaware of the weakness in the plaintiff's back which made her particularly susceptible to injury.

The plaintiff's second argument was founded on the observations made in *Bailey*, in particular on the emphasis placed by the court on the use of the words "to him" at the end of section 72. They undoubtedly led the judge in the present case to his conclusion that "the defendants for the purpose of the statutory duty must take the plaintiff as she is".

The difficulty caused by the observations in *Bailey*, that the likelihood of injury had to be assessed having regard to any individual weaknesses or predispositions of the employee, that the more severe the inherent and latent weakness the more likely it was that any risk in lifting or moving any load would cause injury to him.

On the hypothetical case referred to by Lord Justice Slade in *Bailey*, and on the facts of the present case, the likelihood of injury did not arise from the weight of the load at all. Lifting or moving an object of virtually any weight would have been likely to cause injury to him sooner or later.

It was said that that because of the use of the words "to him", the occupier of a factory or an employer would be in breach of section 72 if he employed a person on work which involved lifting even the lightest of loads if, for example, the employee suffered from an unsuspected aneurism and the strain of lifting caused it to burst.

So, too, an employee might be employed one week to lift a load

Jurisdiction to strike out notice of appeal

Burgess v Stafford Hotel Ltd

Before Lord Justice Glidewell and Sir Denis Buckley
(Judgment February 27)

Although the Rules of the Supreme Court did not make express provision for the striking out of a notice of appeal, the Court of Appeal had an inherent jurisdiction so to do. The power to strike out should, however, be utilized only in clear and obvious cases and an order should not made where any extensive inquiry into the facts was

The Court of Appeal so held awarding to Stafford Hotel Ltd the costs of its application to strike out the appellant's notice of appeal. The court had been told that the appellants had made an order for an injunction against the plaintiff, Mr Jonathan Brock for the defendant.

"It may be that it is part of the jurisdiction of the court, or else it is derived from Order 59, rule 10(1): 'In relation to an appeal the Court of Appeal shall have all the powers and duties as to amendment and otherwise of the High Court.'

"Turning to the instant appeal, His Lordship posed the question: Should the court decide that it would have been right to strike out the appeal although it was on notice except in relation to costs?

The first and third grounds of appeal were bad on their face. Consideration of the second ground did not show that it was patently bad on its face. The Lordships were told, however, that that matter had not been raised in the court below.

It could, therefore, only be raised in the Court of Appeal as a matter of discretion and the court would not allow the point to be argued since it would mean a rehearing.

It was properly to be regarded as an abuse of the process of the court to seek to raise the matter on the instant appeal. It followed that it was right that the application to strike out the notice of appeal should have been made.

His Lordship wished to add a word of warning. The jurisdiction to strike out was just as capable of abuse as was the practice of putting in hopeless notices of appeal.

The power to strike out should be confined to clear and obvious cases and an order should not be made where any extensive inquiry into the facts was going to be necessary.

In the instant case that did not

occur.

Sir Denis Buckley concurred.

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THE LAW

Different ways to the world

INNS AND OUTS

Leading London partnerships are forging overseas links in an effort to broaden their financial options and guarantee reliable service to clients, Edward Fennell writes

The simultaneous announcements that Nabarro Nathanson will formalize an arrangement with New York law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges while Frere Cholmeley is to open an office in East Berlin illustrate the separate routes to internationalism being pursued by leading London partnerships.

Both firms believe, no doubt correctly, that what they are doing is right for them. But the paths they have chosen could hold no greater difference in philosophy.

More details will be available on Frere Cholmeley's move when its office opens later in the spring. But Nabarro Nathanson is frank in discussing the implications of its development with Weil, Gotshal, which is the eighth-largest firm in New York.

"This is the first time two major firms from London and New York have got together in such a close way," says Brian Clarke, the former managing partner of Nabarro Nath-

anson and a central figure in the negotiations.

"In the past, firms wanted to maintain a free hand in their dealings with New York lawyers. We dealt with four or five firms. But we felt the time had come to change direction and that association was in the best interests of both our clients and our two firms."

Mr Clarke says the relationship between the two firms will continue to grow. But there will be a price to pay for the development. Referrals may cease from a number of contacts in a well-established network of firms across the United States. Negotiations with European outfits also had to be suspended while the arrangement was finalized. Because Nabarro's profile has changed significantly, the negotiations will begin again or will be dropped entirely.

"The possibility of an arrangement with Weil, Gotshal was so important that it had to take priority over other discussions," Mr Clarke says.



"There's a lot of talk about the benefits of being able to pick and choose, but my suspicion is that you have to be very heavyweight indeed to get serious attention from New York lawyers. Our clients can be assured of the best service."

Nabarro and Weil Gotshal now plan to establish joint links with firms in the European Community and to begin talks in Eastern Europe. Only in Brussels might it be necessary to have the firm's own office because of the nature of work with the European Commission.

Sharing costs will make such an investment easier for both firms, Mr Clark says. Only firms that specialize in banking, insurance, and shipping need global representation; for solid general commercial practice, like Nabarro's, a network of close relationships is more useful.

"We think we are setting a trend," Mr Clarke says. "A lot of US firms seem to be in a quandary about what to do about Europe. The expense of setting even small offices over here is a major deterrent, so I think a number of them will be looking to do similar deals to Weil, Gotshal and ourselves."

"But that's the fun of the law today. There are so many new things to do and so many ways of doing them."

The negligence in litigation today

Des Wilson and Henry Witcomb suggest preventive measures

Mary Murphy won damages of £250,000 two weeks ago for the death of her husband in a road accident, which caused the family's decorating business, of which she was a director, to collapse. The settlement came four years after her former solicitor had advised her to cut her losses and accept an offer of £12,500.

The Murphy case follows the 12-year fight by the parents of Keith Blackburn, who had been severely brain-damaged in a medical accident. The Blackbourns were also advised to settle for a low amount—in their case £2,000. They rejected the advice and, through sheer persistence and after changing their solicitor three times, finally received £490,000.

After the Blackburn case there were calls for the setting up of a specialist panel of medical negligence litigators to which the public

would have easy access. These calls were endorsed by the Lord Chancellor in the Green Paper. But identifying the actual mechanics of assessing and maintaining standards of competence has not proved easy.

As the Murphy case shows, the problem is not confined to medical negligence. Reg Talbot, the first director of Headway, a support group for people with head injuries, has several inquiries each week from people worried about advice they are receiving.

He cites one instance in which a 16-year-old boy sustained severe head injuries after being knocked down on a pedestrian crossing. The boy was left permanently in a wheelchair, unable to feed himself, and with serious communication difficulties. His mother became so

worried about the lack of preparation for the case that, after eight years of negotiations, she insisted on changing solicitors five weeks before trial.

Thom Osborne, a solicitor recommended by her local Headway group, is certain that a payment into court of £280,000 by the defendant would not have been beaten, given the state of the evidence at the time. The case was adjourned and within 11 weeks, Mr Osborne managed to settle it at the door of the court, for £670,000.

The scale of the problem has been further highlighted by a study in the United States, where 40 practising lawyers were divided into pairs. Each was given an identical set of facts involving a personal injury claim and a dossier of awards in similar cases.

"When plaintiffs instruct solicitors their choice is a matter of chance... unless it is a trade union case handled by a specialist union solicitor."

The study concludes that there is an urgent need to improve "the access of unknowable plaintiffs to solicitors who generally specialize in personal injury litigation."

Two things are clear. The problem is not going to go away and, equally, will not easily be solved. The reformed complaints procedure and the proposed legal ombudsman should go a long way to raising standards. But disciplinary sanctions imposed after the event are a poor substitute for preventive measures in the form of improved pre- and post-qualification training and panels of specialist medical negligence and personal injury practitioners. The ball is in the profession's court.

• The authors are chairman and a member of the Citizen Action Compensation Campaign.

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• The authors are chairman and a member of the Citizen Action Compensation Campaign.

The City of London Solicitor Company Revival, held last evening and tonight at the Westminster Theatre are usually a happy affair. But this year a small note of dissension was heard among the revellers before the event. Herbert Smith had it in mind to perform a sketch based on the *West Side Story* plot, and like good lawyers they decided to check the copyright position first. Unfortunately, the UK copyright is held by Nabarro Nathanson, which refused to grant permission. Those who attended the Revival last night may already know whether last-minute negotiations saved Herbert Smith's sketch from ruin.

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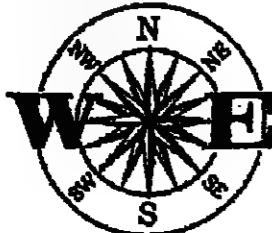
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Court Clerks as legal advisors play a vital role in Magistrates' Courts, where something like 98% of all criminal offenders are dealt with for charges ranging from serious crime to road traffic cases. There is also a civil jurisdiction dealing with domestic and family cases, betting and gaming, licensing applications, and many other civil matters.

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THE ASSOCIATION OF
MAGISTRATES
COURTS

To: Mrs. Karen Tolton, The Association of Magistrates' Courts, P.O. Box 1, Town Hall, Leicester LE1 9BE. Tel. (0533) 5459922 ext. 7803. Please send me further information about careers in the Magisterial Service.

Name _____

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Post Code _____

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OPPORTUNITIES AWAITS YOU

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The UK's most comprehensive legal information and recruitment event will cover vacation work, permanent jobs and general guidance on all aspects of the legal profession.

Open to students and graduates of all disciplines.

Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1
15th March 1990, 12.00 - 7.00
16th March 1990, 10.00 - 4.00

For further details call 01-387 8221



University of London Careers Advisory Service

THE TIMES

LAURENCE
SIMONS
ASSOCIATES

Legal Recruitment

PRIVATE PRACTICE

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION TO £35,000
This medium sized City firm seeks a one to three year qualified commercial litigator to undertake a broad based workload with an emphasis on insolvency related matters.

COMPANY COMMERCIAL TO £30,000
Our client, a medium sized law firm, seeks a one to two year qualified solicitor to handle a mix of company/commercial and media related work.

1990 QUALIFIERS TO £25,000
We have a wide range of clients from small law practices to the largest City firms who are now recruiting newly qualified solicitors for company/commercial, commercial litigation, corporate/asset finance and pensions.

The above are only a small selection from the positions we are currently instructed to fill. If you would like to discuss any of these or any other aspect of your career, please telephone Anne Stephenson/Fiona Case (Private Practice) or Laurence Simons/Sheila McDougall (Commerce/Industry).

01-831 3270

(01-485 1345 evenings/weekends)

Or write to: Laurence Simons Associates, 33 John's Mews, London WC1N 2NS.

We are qualified lawyers with extensive experience in legal recruitment and all approaches are treated in strict confidence.

COMMERCE/INDUSTRY

EXCELLENT

This blue chip multinational company based in central London requires a top quality commercial lawyer with one to three years' experience to join its high profile legal department.

BANKING TO £40,000 + BANKING BENS.

The small legal department of this international bank, based in the City, currently requires an assistant lawyer to handle corporate finance work combined with other banking matters.

OVERSEAS £35,000

We have several clients (companies and firms of lawyers) looking for solicitors and barristers with one to four years' relevant experience to work in Jersey, Kuwait and the Caribbean.

£35,000

We have several clients (companies and firms of lawyers) looking for solicitors and barristers with one to four years' relevant experience to work in Jersey, Kuwait and the Caribbean.

£35,000

We have several clients (companies and firms of lawyers) looking for solicitors and barristers with one to four years' relevant experience to work in Jersey, Kuwait and the Caribbean.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATOR

£25,000 plus

City
The Commercial Litigation department of this high quality City practice undertakes a wide variety of litigation work.

The job offers a high degree of challenge and responsibility as the successful candidate will be expected to manage their own case load within a friendly partnership environment.

Candidates will have 2 years post qualification experience within a firm of good standing. Personal qualities will include integrity, self-sufficiency, ability to relate to clients and colleagues and to make an effective contribution to practice development.

Working conditions are attractive and at a convenient location. The remuneration package to be negotiated will be competitive.

Please reply with full c.v., quoting ref: 270289 to:
L.M. Ozanne, Director, Brian Forbes Search & Selection,
Gate House, 1-3 St. John's Square, London EC1M 4DH

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Tel (01) 782 0990

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We have vacancies for Solicitors, qualified for up to 3 years, in our Shipping Litigation and Arbitration Department. It is essential for the applicant to have had previous experience in this field or in good commercial litigation.

We offer a pleasant and friendly working environment, where application and ability will be suitably rewarded. Please apply in writing, enclosing your C.V., to the above address marked for the attention of Paul Griffiths.

We can help find
lost beneficiaries

Trying to track down the lost beneficiary of an unclaimed estate isn't always easy.

By placing an advertisement in the "Unclaimed Money" section of the News of the World, you can save a lot of time.

The News Of The World has a readership of around 15 million, from all walks of life.

Your missing beneficiary could well be amongst them.

To place an advertisement in the section will cost just 220 per line (minimum 2 lines) plus VAT.

**NEWS
OF THE
WORLD**
CLASSIFIED

All notices should be accompanied by a solicitor's letter.

THE PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE

Has a vacancy for a Probate and Trust Lawyer in London.

The work is mainly trust administration similar to that carried out in private practice.

Starting salary is £21,485-£23,740 according to experience and grade on appointment.

There are prospects for promotion. For an application form please write to the Civil Service Commission, Almon Lane, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB. Telephone: (026 468651

(answering service outside office hours). For further information on the post, please contact Humphrey Mather on 01-259 7051.

Application forms must be returned by 15th March 1990. Please quote reference G1/576.

JUDICIAL STUDIES BOARD
PUBLICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR

The Judicial Studies Board wishes to appoint a part-time Publications Co-ordinator on a contractual basis to review its current publications, consider future developments and establish a routine for the preparation and publication of all the Board's literature. It is anticipated that this post will be available from 1 May 1990. The post will be full-time, working on average one day's work per week. Remuneration will be £5,000 per annum inclusive.

Applicants should be academically qualified in law and should have editorial or publishing experience. The closing date for applications is 27 March. Further details may be obtained from Philip Taylor, Administrator, Judicial Studies Board, 14 Little St James's Street, London SW1A 1DP (telephone 01-825 0185).

01-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

THE OFFICE OF THE BANKING OMBUDSMAN

Senior Legal Officer

The Banking Ombudsman Scheme covers most individuals who receive banking services within the U.K. The Ombudsman can make binding awards of up to £100,000. Because the Scheme is seen as providing an attractive alternative to the courts, the volume of work continues to increase. As a result the Ombudsman wishes to expand the existing staff of 15 which includes 6 qualified lawyers and a resident banking adviser.

A solicitor or barrister with some experience is sought to help the Ombudsman investigate and resolve some of the more complex complaints received. The work is varied and challenging. Salary in the region of £30,000.

Applicants should apply in writing with a c.v. to: The Ombudsman, The Office of the Banking Ombudsman, Citadel House, 5/11 Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1BR.

PARTNERSHIP COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

London NQ £25,000, £45,000, £100,000
We are currently instructed by several clients seeking good commercial property solicitors at 3 stages of qualification: newly qualified, c 4 years and partnership (for those with a following). You will have city type experience including acquisitions and disposals of leasehold, and/or property development work with a recognised firm and a good academic record.

COMPANY COMMERCIAL PARTNER DESIGNATES

London to £200,000
This is an unusual opportunity for corporate solicitors to join a young and expanding department within an established firm. A number of opportunities exist for city trained solicitors, including immediate partnership with substantial rewards, for those with a client following. The firm is renowned for its dynamic and progressive outlook. Opportunities to set up a corporate department and build a team exist in its provincial office; a following is essential.

AMSLTD

For further information please call or write to Karen Mulvihill or Ian Pearce
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Career Opportunities for Solicitors

Salary - up to £24,972

Two new posts have been created in the Legal Services Department in Croydon, London's largest borough, to meet the changing requirements of Social Services law.

Senior Solicitor (Social Services)
Deputies for the Principal Solicitor who leads the team which advises on all aspects of social services law, including child care legislation. Duties may include attendance at committees and adoption panels. Applicants will already have experience in this sensitive and increasingly complex area.

Assistant Solicitor (Social Services)
An important post to strengthen the expanding legal team, this is an exciting opportunity to specialise in a sensitive and fast growing area of law. Duties include advising the Social Services Department and handling a varied caseload of social services matters.

Benefits
• Competitive salary according to experience
• Car leasing scheme
• Relocation package up to £6,000 plus lodging allowance to £1,500
• Interest-free travel loan

If you want to know more about how we can help you develop your legal career, call Assistant Head of Legal Services, Alan Muir, on 01 686 4433 ext. 2737.

Application form and full details are available from the Administrative Services Manager, London Borough of Croydon, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon, CR9 3JS or by calling 01 686 4433 ext. 3877.

Closing date - 23rd March

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

DAVID PARKER & COMPANY
LICENSED CONVEYANCERS

Require ambitious and self-motivated licensed conveyancer or legal executive with at least 5 years recent experience to assist in busy practice.

Excellent remuneration for successful candidate.

References will be sought.

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE
GLOUCESTER MAGISTRATES' COURT
PRINCIPAL LEGAL ADVISERS (TWO POSTS)

Salary up to £20,568 (Currently Under Review)

Applications are invited for the above posts.

Applicants will be qualified under the Justices' Clerks' (Qualifications of Assistants) Rules 1979, be able to take all types of Courts without supervision, and undertake other administrative responsibilities.

Gloucester is a busy Court, currently holding up to 40 sittings per week and deals with an interesting and varied workload. These posts are ideal for those who wish to further their careers by working in a busy City office. Gloucestershire is a beautiful County in which to live and work and geographically is ideally situated, access being easily gained to most other parts of the country through the convenient motorway and rail links.

A relocation package of up to £5,000 + V.A.T. is available, which may be increased in special circumstances. Generous leave entitlement of up to 29 days per annum and a mortgage relief subsidy is offered.

If you wish to find out more, why don't you telephone my Deputy, Keith Starling, on Gloucester (0452) 426153 for further particulars.

Applications, stating age and giving details of education, qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the undersigned not later than 19th March 1990 in an envelope marked "Private and Confidential".

Gloucestershire County Council is an equal opportunities employer.

The Court House,
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City - Commercial Conveyancing - to £60,000
Medium sized City firm requires a 3 yrs + Quasi solicitor with substantial comm prop exp to handle a challenging workload.

City - Bank - £30,000 + Mortgage Subsidy
Major clearing bank requires general co/com/banking lawyer to handle a varied workload. Excellent prospects.

Newly/Recently Qualified Solicitors -

Co/Commercial

Number of solicitors are required by a City firm to handle mergers, acquisitions and venture capital work. Training.

Industry - Comm/Conveyancing -

Newly to 5 yrs Qual

Major London company requires property lawyers to handle a varied workload. Training and salary excellent.

Intellectual Property - Newly Qual to 4 yrs Qual

Major City firm with a renowned I.P. dept. requires solicitors with experience or a desire to handle non-contentious I.P. work.

Immigration/Co/Commercial -

Hong Kong £50,000

Garfield Robbins
Legal Recruitment and Search Consultants
21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH
Contact Nicholas Robbins, LLB on 01-405 1123

Trade Mark Specialist

wanted to work within INTELMARK, the expanding Trade Mark Creation, Management and Protection unit of City law firm, Timms Sainer & Webb.

Excellent Career Opportunity for the successful candidate who will have the opportunity of working on a wide variety of projects in the firm's substantial corporate services department.

Experience of working in trade mark practice required, Intermediate ITMA exam qualification desirable, training for full ITMA membership will be provided. Good communication skills, enthusiasm and drive are essential. In return we are offering an excellent salary and stimulating working environment.

Write with full C.V. to Kate O'Rourke at: Intelmark, Timms Sainer & Webb Solicitors 2 Serjeants' Inn Fleet Street London EC4Y 1LT. 01 583 5353



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GROUP SOLICITOR

c. £40,000 plus Car and Benefits

Windsor

TNT Skypak is the worldwide courier and express division of TNT Ltd, one of the world's largest transportation groups. The division is growing rapidly and currently employs over 5,500 people worldwide and provides express delivery services in over 180 countries.

The Group Solicitor, who reports to the Managing Director, is responsible for the control and co-ordination of the legal, insurance and company secretarial affairs of the division and plays a major role in the overall management of the business from offices in Windsor.

As a result of internal promotion the current Group Solicitor will soon be moving into a General Management role. His successor will be a Corporate/Commercial Solicitor or Barrister aged 30-40 with extensive experience in industry, probably with previous international involvement. He or she will need to be confident, articulate and have a commercial approach to the solution of business problems. International travel will be required, sometimes at short notice.

The salary, which is negotiable for the right candidate, is supplemented by a fully expensed executive car and other benefits normally associated with a position of this seniority.

Please send written application with full c.v. to:

David Bowker
Group Human Resources Manager,
TNT Skypak International, Felsted House,
2-6 Frances Road, Windsor, Berks SL4 3AA

TNT

Skypak

International Express

THE TIMES

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS
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SOLICITOR'S OFFICE

- WE SEEK: Lawyer with litigation experience to undertake a broad range of commercial litigation work.
- WE OFFER: The wide variety of interesting work which one would expect from the in-house legal department of this leading telecommunications company, and the possibilities of specialisation in property litigation including planning and planning work.
- A very congenial atmosphere at BT's modern headquarters in the City.
- An attractive Personal Contract package including competitive salary, car, medical insurance, etc.

Please send CV's to British Telecommunications plc
Solicitor's Office

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This advertisement appeared in The Times Legal Appointments section

Every day over 1.1 million people read The Times.

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Source: UK NRS
Jul - Dec '89

Contact Rachel Pilgrim: 01-481 4481

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Commercial
Conveyancing Solicitor

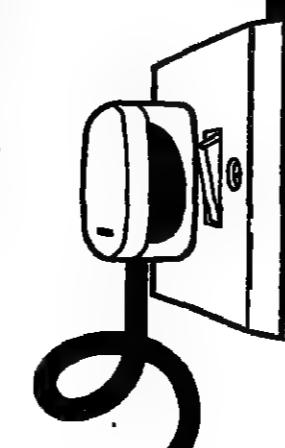
BRIGHTON to £30,400 + car

With nearly 2 million customers and a turnover close to £1 billion, we will be one of the largest companies in the South East of England, when we become SEEBOARD plc. In preparation for privatisation, we have decided to strengthen our legal office with the appointment of a Commercial Conveyancing Solicitor.

You will probably have a good law degree, together with a number of years' post-qualification experience dealing with conveyancing and property development matters in a commercial context. An outgoing personality, together with the ability to win the confidence of senior management with your professional and logical approach, are essential requirements for this excellent career opportunity. Your responsibilities will include personally handling a substantial caseload and supervising the work of a number of qualified conveyancers. Candidates able to offer experience with an existing plc will have a distinct advantage. Additional duties will include rating and planning work.

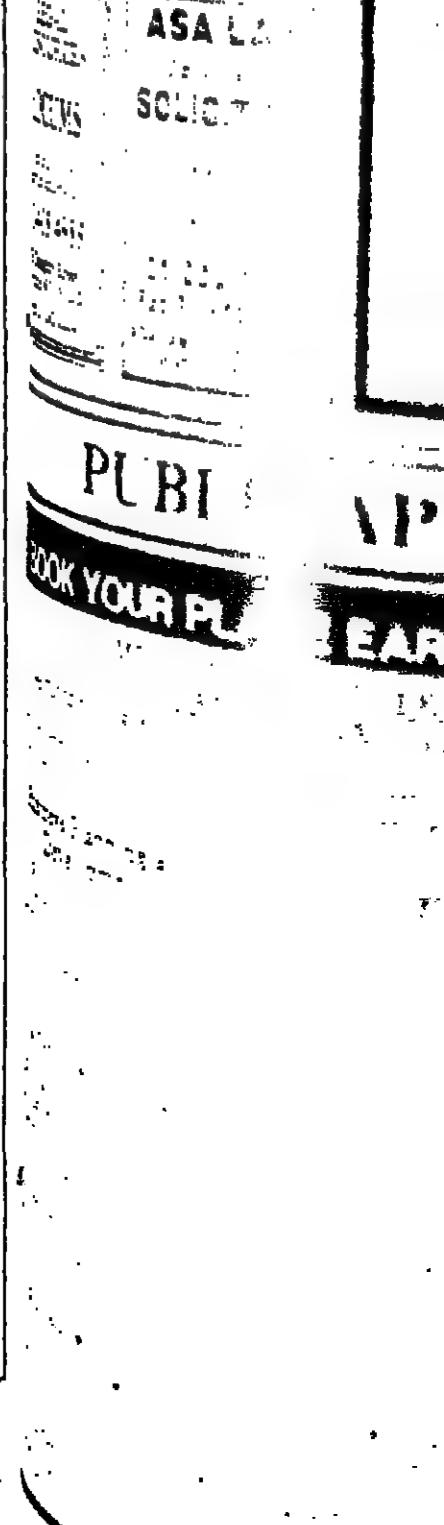
The experience we can offer you will help you achieve your ambitions, and you will have the opportunity to make a real impact on our organisation during a period of dramatic change. As well as being situated on the beautiful Sussex Coast, you can expect to receive a competitive salary and all the benefits you would expect from a large and successful organisation. As Seeboard is an equal opportunity employer, these include things such as maternity leave, career breaks and flex-time working.

Please send your CV to the Administration Director & Secretary, Seeboard, Grand Avenue, Hove, East Sussex BN3 2LS, quoting vacancy no. 2863. Closing date: 5th March 1990.

SEEBOARD
Doing a power of good

YOUNG SOLICITORS offered
Choice of Commercial/Property
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0703/4767050. Send CV to
SEEBARD Back-Up, 66 St. Leonards
Road, Hastings, Berks, SL1 4BY.

THAMES VALLEY, Large
practice requires experienced
Solicitor with
Excellent salary and career
opportunities. We have
several comm prop exp posts for
experienced solicitors.
Contact Helen Ashworth
0703/4767050. Send CV to
SEEBARD Back-Up, 66 St. Leonards
Road, Hastings, Berks, SL1 4BY.



01-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

PENSIONS
City

Newly qualified to 3 years PQE solicitors some Pension Law experience and a desire to specialise are sought to work in the Tax and Planning Department of this medium size firm with an ever expanding case-load of 'blue-chip' clients. The work will involve a variety of advisory and planning matters. Candidates will be given the encouragement to develop more business and be offered excellent career opportunities.

DEBT COLLECTION
Central London c. £30,000

An experienced Debt Collector is sought to manage a department in medium size well-established London firm. Experience of computerised Debt Recovery is essential, along with knowledge of High Court and County Court procedures, some bankruptcy experience is also desirable. This is an excellent career opportunity for someone with enthusiasm and ability to build and develop the already busy department.

AIRCRAFT FINANCE
Central London £27,000+

Progressive and modern city practice with a wide and well-established international and domestic client-base seek recently qualified solicitors with some Aircraft Financing experience to join their busy specialist team. Excellent long-term career prospects and fringe benefits offered to candidates with good city articles.

CIVIL LITIGATION
Portsmouth £30,000

Large progressive firm with offices throughout the South of England seek experienced (3 years + PQE) Civil Litigator. The work involves some heavy cases, dealing with many major prestigious clients. Genuine prospects and excellent benefits.

For details of these or the many more positions we currently have available throughout London and the Provinces call or write with full CV to Andrew Virian or Paul Stapleton.

Tel: 01 236 4402
63 Carter Lane, London EC4

ADAMS & REMERS
SOLICITORS

We are a long established medium sized County firm experiencing significant expansion and urgently require:

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL
LAWYER

This is a challenging new post which would suit a Solicitor, Barrister or Legal Executive with substantial experience in general company/commercial matters.

Please write in strictest confidence to Kevin Ardagh, Messrs. Adams & Remers, 213 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2NN or telephone him on Lewes (0273) 480616.

CHAMBERS OF DESMOND
DE SILVA Q.C. AND
EUGENE COTRAN,

Invite applications from established practitioners who specialise in either (i) General Civil Law, (ii) Criminal Law (iii) Planning and Local Government Law.

Applications in confidence to:

Mr. John Canser,
2 Paper Buildings,
Temple
London EC4Y 7ET

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London, EC4V 5HE

LEGAL ADVISER

PolyGram, with its leading record labels (Polydor, Mercury, Island, A&M, Deutsche Grammophon, Philips, Decca and London among them), is one of the largest and most successful music companies in the world.

Due to recent major acquisitions and the company's flotation, an additional lawyer (solicitor or barrister) with two to three years post qualification experience is sought for the Group Legal Department at our international head-quarters in central London. The successful candidate will be involved in many aspects, music related and otherwise, of the diverse work of an international corporate legal department.

This is an exceptional opportunity for a solicitor or barrister who has already gained commercial experience, in private practice or commerce, and who is now looking to make a career in an exciting and fast-moving business environment.

The excellent salary and benefits package will be at a level to attract the right candidate.

To apply, please write enclosing a detailed curriculum vitae to Joy Hamlyn, Personnel Manager, PolyGram International Ltd., 30 Berkeley Square, London W1X 5HA. Telephone: 01-493 8800.

PolyGram

COMPANY SECRETARIAL
ASSISTANT

City Up to £20K

Our client, a large and successful legal firm, are seeking a number two in their growing company secretarial department.

Your main responsibilities will include statutory work, arranging of AGMs, filing of returns and updating registers. You will provide information on company law and secretarial administration both inhouse and to clients, including visits when necessary.

You will need at least a year's company secretarial experience gained in either commerce or private practice. Aged in your 30's

with a helpful manner, good communication skills and an eye for detail your dedication will be well rewarded. A good basic salary is offered together with excellent company benefits including regular pay reviews, subsidised restaurant, Private Health care and non-contributory pension after a qualifying period. A non-smoker is preferred.

All interviews will be held with our client but in the first instance please telephone Victoria Phillipot quoting reference number 339 on

01-603 8137

PLANNED PRE-SELECTION SERVICES

75 HAMMERSMITH ROAD, LONDON W4 8UZ



PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

BOOK YOUR PLACE EARLY AT THE 1996 OLYMPICS
COME TO MANCHESTER AND JOIN ITS PROGRESSIVE
FAMILY PRACTITIONER COMMITTEE

We need THREE SENIOR MANAGERS to lead a dedicated and experienced staff in implementing the White Paper proposals so as to provide the highest level of health care for the people of Manchester. The three appointees will form a senior management team who, with the General Manager, will be responsible for the planning, development and executive action required to take the City's Primary Health Care Services into the 1990s and the next century.

Business Planning and
Development

YOUR ROLE: Business planning, and management, Personnel, Training, Secretariat, Administration. Deputy to the General Manager.

YOUR PAY: £25,440-£27,520pa

YOU: Will hold a professional qualification and demonstrate relevant experience in strategic and tactical planning. Will enjoy a challenge and managerial freedom. Will lead and motivate. Be a problem solver with much initiative. Demonstrate appropriate experience.

YOU WILL ALL: * Want the General Manager's job. * Want and get managerial freedom to take action. * Liaise closely with a District Health Authority. * Be able to lead and motivate others. * Have distinct problem solving abilities. * Be offered - three year rolling contract: performance related pay; lease car.

Interested - then without more ado

Phone the General Manager, Jim Dennis, on 061-273 3136 ext 212, for an informal chat, or Edna Burns, on ext 217 will send you an information pack. Curriculum Vitae should be sent under confidential cover to: Jim Dennis, Manchester Family Practitioner Committee, 2A Higher Ardwick, Manchester M12 6BN by March 26, 1990. Interviews will take place on April 4, 5 and 6, 1990.

This isn't the best way to decide your future.

Your articles are nearly finished — what will you do next?

As a newly qualified Solicitor, the options can be bewildering. You could leave it to the last minute, risk a wrong decision, or just stick pins in and leave it all to chance.

The chances are that these won't work. Before you make your choice, you need to know the facts and assess the options. Most firms are already planning their intake of Autumn qualifiers.

To help you make the right move we have invited partners from four leading London firms to talk about the following fields:

BAKER & MCKENZIE — Company/Commercial

SLAUGHTER AND MAY — Tax

SPEECHLY BIRCHAM — Property

MACFARLANES — Litigation

There will be ample opportunity for informal and confidential discussion with partners and assistants.

DATE — 22nd March 1990

TIME — 6.30 p.m.

PLACE — Howard Hotel, Temple Place, London WC2.

If you are interested in coming along, without obligation, or would like some more information, please fill in the coupon opposite:

COMPANY
COMMERCIAL
LITIGATION
PROPERTY
TAX

Handwritten signature

Name: _____

Address: _____

Work Tel: _____ Home Tel: _____

Date of Qualification: _____

Please tick appropriate boxes:

I wish to attend the seminar at The Howard Hotel, Temple Place, London WC2.

* I would like to arrange an informal discussion with a consultant on your desk.

Please return to Mandy Browne,
Badenoch & Clark, FREEPOST LONDON EC4B 4HN
Telephone: (01) 583 0073

BADENOCH & CLARK
recruitment specialists

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS



Co-ordinating Resources
to meet differing needs

Head of Administrative & Corporate Services

£26,364 - £27,822

Following a recent review the department's framework has been restructured to improve the quality of service it provides.

The department operates through two divisions namely Legal Services and Administrative and Corporate Services. This restructuring enables the department to respond effectively and efficiently to the competitive climate in Local Government and develop new approaches to the provision of services in a period of rapid change.

As Head of Administrative and Corporate Services, you'll be charged with managing and co-ordinating the work of both the Committee Services and Common Services sections, ensuring they provide a quality service by establishing efficient procedures. Participating in the Department's corporate management, you will be responsible to the County Secretary and Solicitor and advise on any matters which have corporate implications and devise effective working practices. To harness the efforts of these two distinct, yet complementary sections,

you will need to be a strong administrator, with experience at a senior level in either local government, public service or a private organisation. A graduate, you will probably also be professionally qualified (I.C.S.A or D.M.S.). A legal background is not essential. With an active approach to solving problems, you will be able to set objectives and motivate yourself and others to achieve them.

Apart from a competitive salary, we also offer a substantial relocation package, a pension scheme, generous leave entitlement, free medical insurance and mortgage subsidy. We also operate flexitime and subsidised car leasing schemes.

For an informal discussion please telephone Ian Crookall on (0296) 383112 or Paul Thomas on (0296) 382204. Further details and an application form available from County Secretary & Solicitor, County Hall, Aylesbury HP20 1UA. Tel: Aylesbury (0296) 382940.

Closing date:
30th March 1990

**Buckinghamshire
County Council**

County Solicitor & Deputy Clerk

Ref No: CCE/21902/T4

£41,967 - £46,164

Following the appointment of Basil Smith as Chief Executive and Clerk, and consequent restructuring, a new post of County Solicitor and Deputy Clerk has been created.

This Chief Officer post is primarily responsible for the management, direction and control of the Council's legal, administrative, committee and public relations services.

The postholder will be expected to participate fully in the corporate management of the Authority. He/she will be a member of the Chief Officers' Group which assists the Chief Executive and Clerk in fulfilling corporate objectives, and in meeting the many challenges facing the Authority.

Applicants must be qualified as a Solicitor or Barrister with specialist knowledge of the law relating to local government. Extensive management experience is required within a large, multi-purpose local authority.

Assistant Chief Executive

Ref No: CCE/21901/T4

£240,000

Following the appointment of Basil Smith as Chief Executive and Clerk, and consequent restructuring, a new post of Assistant Chief Executive has been created.

This is a Chief Officer post directly accountable to the Chief Executive and Clerk. The postholder will be expected to participate fully in the corporate management of the Authority. He/she will be a member of the Chief Officers' Group. The postholder will be primarily responsible for the management, direction and control of the Council's corporate policy and service support functions. This includes the development and implementation of information technology and management services, the preparation and review of corporate plans, research and development functions, and co-ordination of the 'client side' aspects of competitive tendering.

Applicants must hold appropriate educational and professional qualifications and have extensive management experience involving the application of the management sciences, information and computing services.

Avon provides services for a population of nearly one million people. One of the largest service providers in the West County, it employs around 33,000 staff and spends £550 million.

The Authority can offer an attractive remuneration package which includes:

Mortgage Assistance where appropriate
Maternity/Paternity provision

Car Leasing/Assisted Car Purchase
Generous Relocation Scheme

Further details about these posts and the remuneration packages are available in an Information Pack which can be obtained by calling Bristol (0272) 298565 (Answer phone on this number after office hours). Please quote reference number. Completed application forms to be returned by 28th March 1990.

Applications are particularly welcomed from women, black people and disabled people who are under-represented at this level in the workforce (Race Relations Act 1976 section 38 (1)(b) and Sex Discrimination Act 1975 Section 48 (1)(b) apply). In the interests of health we operate a non-smoking policy.

Avon as an Equal Opportunities employer considers applicants on their suitability for the post, regardless of sex, race, disability or sexual orientation.

**Avon
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Continued on next page

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
WE SEE CHANGE AS
OPPORTUNITYCompulsory
Competitive
TenderingCommunity
ChargeEducation
Reform Act
(1988)Care in the
CommunityWe welcome applications regardless
of marital status, sex, race or disability.

The world in which Local Government is operating has changed and is changing rapidly. If you are aware of these developments you will know that they are impacting on the way in which services are planned and delivered. The changing environment of Northamptonshire together with its economic prosperity also brings fresh challenges. The growth of traffic on roads, the interest of the public in 'green' issues, the pressures on land and the requirements for skilled labour are just a few of the issues facing us and which make imperative the search for creative solutions.

To face these challenges Northamptonshire County Council has recognised that management arrangements have to be fundamentally reorganised. The first step is to create a Corporate Headquarters which will focus on the strategic management of the authority, identifying priorities and policies and translating these into programmes and plans for action.

Three new posts remain to be filled. Each one will make significant impact on the way the County Council is managed and taken forward into the 1990's.

ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE**negotiable to £38,500**

To provide the corporate lead in developing and implementing strategic planning and review processes. Working closely with all Service Departments you would take responsibility for the co-ordination and development of policy planning initiatives and a Performance Review Strategy which will enable the authority to fine tune its strategic direction and monitor the success of policy initiatives.

This important opportunity, which provides a springboard for promotion to Chief Officer posts in Local Government, demands a degree level education supported by professional and/or managerial training. Ambition and energy, plus proven ability to contribute positively and creatively to the formulation of policy, together with experience in promoting and implementing change, will be called for.

COUNTY SOLICITOR**— negotiable around £33,000**

As the corporate legal adviser you would advise the Council, Committees, Chief Executive and Chief Officers on legal matters covering the range of County Council services. Working within the Corporate Headquarters you would provide high quality legal advice, either directly or by commissioning advice from the newly created Directorate of Professional Services, and monitoring it to ensure value for money is achieved.

In this key post you would also act as Head of Profession for all legal staff in the authority.

You will be a Solicitor of between five to ten years' standing with either Local Government or Public Sector experience. Alternatively your experience may have been gained in the private sector, possibly connected with Local Government. Managerial experience is not essential but the opportunity to develop your career by resolving complex legal and strategic problems could provide the scope for moving into a managerial role.

HEAD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**negotiable to £22,000**

To spearhead a new high quality public relations function with a broad ranging brief to develop a PR strategy for the County Council. This will communicate our core values and build upon our image and profile with the community we serve, our customers and our staff.

Supporting the Directors of our operational services in their public relations responsibilities and contacts with the media, you will generate proactive publicity, and develop a range of publicity to support our philosophy and services in an innovative and interesting way.

Ideally you will have at least five years' public relations and/or journalism experience, with the ability to work creatively and articulately under pressure. Excellent organisational and communication skills are essential. Experience in Local Government is not necessary although an interest in its work is.

For all posts we offer: • Competitive salary • Subsidised Lease Car • Contributory Pension Scheme • Company Health Scheme • Relocation Assistance.

Informal enquiries are welcome. For the Assistant Chief Executive and Head of Public Relations posts contact Jeffrey Greenwell, Chief Executive on (0604) 236050. (Closing date 23rd March 1990). For the County Solicitor post contact Denis Clegg, Director of Finance and Administration on (0604) 236550. (Closing date 6th April 1990).

To receive an information pack, and application form write to Mrs. Helen Walker, Director of Personnel County Hall, George Street, Northampton NN1 1DN or telephone (0604) 236593 (24 hour answerphone service).

LEEDS *family* HEALTH
DIRECTOR, PATIENT SERVICES**£27,520 plus performance related
pay and lease car**

Are you ready for the biggest challenge of your career? Are you looking for a job where you can see the results of your efforts?

This new senior post has been created to help the professionals who deliver family health services in Leeds provide ever higher standards of care and more effective programmes of health promotion.

As a member of the Management Board you will take the lead in working with the professionals on standards of service. You will advise the General Manager on setting and achieving short term and longer term policy objectives, and will commission and interpret consumer survey work. You will manage the information section.

You will need to demonstrate good interpersonal skills and a record of solid achievement, not necessarily in the Health Service.

Information pack from Scott Malloch (extension 46). Tony Garland, General Manager, will welcome informal enquiries.

Closing date: 21 March 1990

Leeds Family Practitioner Committee
AEU House Bridge Street
Leeds LS2 7RB. Telephone: Leeds (0532) 450271
Leeds Family Practitioner Committee.

UNITED NATIONS
ENGLISH VERBATIM
REPORTERS EXAM

A competitive examination for the recruitment of English verbatim reporters will be held on 19 June 1990, in New York, Geneva and other locations for the purpose of establishing a roster from which present and future vacancies will be filled in New York.

Applicants must:

- A) Have English as their main language and an excellent knowledge of French or Spanish;
- B) Hold a degree from a university or institution of equivalent status at which English is the language of instruction;
- C) Have 3 years of experience in verbatim reporting. The Board will also consider candidates who have 3 years of experience in journalism, translation, editing or a related field;
- D) Be able to type at least 30 words per minute.

Candidates should also be able to operate a dictaphone and, while listening intermittently to type out the text of a recorded speech using a dictaphone.

Starting Gross base salary \$29,563 per annum plus post adjustment (\$13,323 net per annum at present but subject to change) and family allowances. Further information and application forms may be obtained by writing to:

Competitive Examination for
English Verbatim Reporters Secretariat Recruitment Section
Room 266

United Nations Office at Geneva
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

The deadline for receiving in New York completed personal history forms from candidates is 5 April 1990.

Royal County of
BERKSHIRE*Quality*A SPECIAL CHALLENGE
IN PERSONAL MANAGEMENT**£22,000**

Managing human resources is demanding work at the best of times. But with the need to promote innovative personnel management solutions in an organisation of over 20,000 people operating in a range of service sectors, the Personnel Department at the Royal County of Berkshire is faced with a very special kind of challenge.

The Council's aim is to provide quality services and the effective management of our human resources is therefore fundamental to our success. Recent press coverage has outlined our approach to the devolved management of the personnel function and the specification of quality standards required. To help us ensure these standards are met, we now need a personnel professional to join the small strategic team at Shire Hall, Reading.

In this new role, you will advise, monitor and report on the full range of personnel activities and provide an important link between the strategic development of the personnel function and the effectiveness of operational delivery. Previous experience at operational and strategic levels in personnel management is called for, plus a real desire to demonstrate the contribution which the profession can make to the achievement of our business objectives.

The reward package is market linked to the Thames Valley, and includes a subsidised lease car of your choice and assistance with relocation if required.

To find out more about this challenging role, please telephone Bryan Jeffries on 0734 233077, or contact Christine Smith for an information pack at the County Personnel Department, Shire Hall, Shinfield Park, Reading, Berks RG2 9XA. Telephone 0734 233075.

HARINGEY HEALTH AUTHORITY

A new structure for the
finance function

To implement its new responsibilities after the White Paper, Haringey Health Authority is restructuring its finance function to provide greater delegation to units — including one candidate for independent trust status — a separation of purchase and provider roles, and a sharper focus for strategic planning and development. We therefore now need:

Director of Finance

Spine point 4: Senior Manager Pay £35,760 plus Performance Related Pay.

Required qualities include:

- an accountancy qualification plus knowledge of related spheres such as information technology, marketing and commercial management;
- top level financial management experience, with an orientation to business planning, income generation and contract specification and negotiation;
- the ability to contribute to the corporate leadership of the Authority;
- creative, analytical entrepreneurial, and communication skills;
- vision.

For an informal discussion please contact Geoff Smith, District General Manager, on 01-800 1031 ext 202.

Further information about the post and information pack are available from the District Personnel Department, Mountford House, The Green, Totternhoe, London N15 4AN. Tel: 01-800 1031 Ext 210/211/212. Please quote reference number D039. Closing date: 2 April 1990.

Haringey Health Authority is working towards equal opportunities and welcomes application from all sections of the community.

CORONER

For the East District of South Yorkshire

£31,731 - £35,307

(plus a 5.5% salary supplement if the appointee joins the Local Government Superannuation Scheme)

The post is based in Doncaster and the Coroner's District comprises the Metropolitan Borough of Doncaster and Rotherham. The caseload for the district is in the region of 2,200 per year. You must be a barrister, solicitor or registered medical practitioner of not less than five years standing in your profession. Experience as Coroner, Deputy or Assistant Coroner would be an advantage.

Doncaster is well situated being in the centre of the motorway networks. Sport and leisure facilities are excellent and quality housing is available at reasonable cost.

Application forms and further details are available from the Personnel Unit, Chief Executive's Department, 2 Priory Place, Doncaster, DN1 1BN Tel. Doncaster (0302) 734020.

The closing date for applications is 19th March 1990.

We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications irrespective of race, sex or disability.

KYLE AND CARRICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT
OF
ARCHITECT**Scale:**
P.O. 4-7 - £16,767-218,234

Kyle and Carrick, with a population of 114,000, is located in an area of outstanding natural beauty on the Ayrshire coast and offers a high standard of urban, rural and coastal environment in which to live and work.

Applications are invited for the above post based in the Architects Department at Burns House, Ayr.

Key duties of the post will be to take charge of the Architects Department and be responsible for meeting tenants and agencies' groups and for the implementation of the Council's Modernisation and Rehabilitation Programme. Applicants should ideally have had previous experience of this type of work and have the ability to provide and maintain a quality service to meet the needs of our customers. Applicants must be a member of ARCA/RAIB/RIBA.

Conditions of service include:

1. Assistance with housing may be available and assistance towards relocation expenses.
2. Free life assurance.
3. On average 25 days annual leave.
4. Redundancy.

If you would like to discuss the post on an informal basis please contact Alison Haugh on 0222 251511, ext. 2204. If you simply require an application form, which should be returned by 27th March 1990, then write to Mr W. Gilmore, ARIBA, ARIBA, M.R.I.P.L., Director of Architecture and Planning, Kyle and Carrick District Council, Burns House, Burns Square, Ayr KA7 1UP.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

barnet

FINANCIAL SERVICES

The Progressive Face of
Finance

Barnet is one of London's largest boroughs with a responsible and progressive attitude to financial management. It's an environment where ambitious accountants can recognise and realise their potential.

Currently, we have a range of promising openings on offer.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT**£16,308-£23,044 pa inc.**

Market Factor and Performance
Supplement + casual car user
allowance.

Acting as Deputy Team Leader in a section dealing with the financial management of various council services will prove a valuable opportunity for a recently qualified CIPFA or an experienced SAT to gain direct management experience. Ref: 6156/99.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT**£16,308-£17,655 pa inc.**

+ casual car user allowance

The primary function of this role is to provide a co-ordination role in respect to capital expenditure and income monitoring for all services. You will also be involved in the Housing Accountancy Section's provision of financial services and in initiatives proposed by the Housing Directorate.

We are seeking an experienced SAT or part qualified CIPFA member who will be able to communicate fluently and produce reports relating to capital expenditure. Ref: 6156/98.

ACCOUNTANT**£12,579-£16,722 pa inc.**

You will have specific responsibility for the accounting function of various Council Services. At minimum you should be an Accounting Technician and/or possess CIPFA Part 1 and be actively studying for the next stage. Ref: 6156/11.

Closing date: 16th March 1990. Application forms available from the Recruitment Office, London Borough of Barnet, 18/17 Sentinel Square, Brent Street, Hendon, NW4 2EN. Tel: 01-802 8282 ext 2372 (01-802 8602 outside office hours).

AN AUTHORITY COMMITTED TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

**LONDON BOROUGH
barnet**UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM
THE BOOKER CHAIR
INENTREPRENEURSHIP
IN THE
SERVICE SECTOR

Applications are invited for this new Chair at Durham University Business School. The Chair, which is being funded by Booker PLC, offers an exciting opportunity to develop a national centre in the field of retail and service sector entrepreneurship. The Booker Professor will work with the schools' Small Business Centre which has a worldwide reputation in the field of Entrepreneurship and Small Business. A contract will be offered for five years in the first instance.

The salary will be by negotiation at a point within the span of professional salaries at Durham initially £27,900, circa £30,000 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University of Durham, Old Shire Hall, Durham, DH1 3JF, to whom applications (12 copies) should be submitted, including the names of three referees, not later than Friday 23rd March 1990. (Candidates outside the British Isles need submit one copy only.)

DIRECTOR OF
FUNDRAISINGfor
A ROYAL CHARITY

You will be experienced in major fundraising especially big gift and major asking power.

A remuneration package commensurate with this important role will be available.

Please write with full CV to:

The Chairman

CFP Limited, 23 Grove Park,
White Waltham, Maidenhead,
Berkshire SL6 3JL

Commercial Manager

Circa £20,000

The Commercial Manager will handle finance, administration and public relations for the Trust, as well as providing a general managerial input to the running of the Trust. The post will involve the development and design of a range of financial management systems and establish solid commercial disciplines; then move on to supervise the implementation of these systems. The post will be looking for a locally based person with a range of management experience, including financial and accounting and who cares about the environment.

Projects Team Manager

Circa £20,000

The Project Manager will be responsible for the development, design, handling, management and enforcement of the Trust's practical and theoretical investment policies. The post will involve the supervision of the implementation of these policies and the development of a range of financial and accounting systems. The post will be looking for a locally based person with a range

HORIZONS

In the eye of the storm

Quick-thinking scientists make good meteorologists, Ann Hills writes

The Meteorological Office is about to open a new, multi-million pound Centre for Climate Prediction and Research next to its head office in Bracknell, Berkshire. "We are planning for up to 100 years ahead; we've got to have facts to advise government about the greenhouse effect, the ozone layer, temperature rises - climate changes," said Colin Macey, a weather forecaster who now manages the personnel department.

He and his colleagues will interview graduates and more senior scientists who respond to recruitment advertisements appearing in the national Press, to staff the new centre. They must have a career commitment to the vagaries of climate, studied through highly computerized, mathematical modelling and scientific global monitoring.

A visit to headquarters in Bracknell, where nearly half of the total 2,000-strong workforce is employed, is a revelation. In the hub of operations - the Central Forecasting Office - arrays of screens portray coloured images interpreting data from radar and satellites, from numerous observers from ships and planes.

One section, named Frontiers (Forecasting Rain Optimized Using New Techniques of Intensively Enhanced Radar and Satellite Data) was being manned by Tony Burgess, who also looks after storm tides.

"Last night," he says, "I warned Southwold on the east coast that

tide and wind could generate a surge". In the event, it was a few inches below flood level.

There is a unit for airline pilots, who are provided with charts plotting fronts and wind speeds over flight paths. Former sea captains, including Captain Donald Hewitt - a sailor for 27 years who would "rather be here than at sea in a force 10" - provide forecasts for ships.

They combine their previous experience with skills mastered here.

Individual vessels, such as the Queen Elizabeth II, pay for updated forecasts for the duration of a voyage, usually across the Atlantic. Typically, this may recoup the one-off fee of £350 by avoiding gales.

The forecasting office is manned 24 hours a day, every day, backed by supercomputers which digest millions of items of information around the clock, building up pictures which enable weathermen to publish patterns for the following hour, day and week ahead. In the future this could be extended to 10 days as a new Cray supercomputer comes into operation.

Assuredly, human beings still draw and colour charts, using experience to enhance computerized calculations. "There is a human element at every stage, but

no use for little fobbers," says Kim Turner, a 31-year-old forecaster now employed on personnel.

This lively and colourful centre is exciting and, though the staff use measured terms, it is apparent that many a forecaster began - as did Mr Macey - measuring rainfall, temperature and wind speed during childhood. The Met Office remains the prime source of employment for weather forecasters. With an annual budget nudging £90 million, this national service can afford pioneering computerization. It has its own in-service college running courses, from one day to five months long (also taking in fee-paying foreign students). It has a library, archive and museum.

Above the ground, the Met Office flies a Hercules transport plane, nicknamed "Snoopy", which was recently deployed investigating ozone layers over the Arctic, combined with other European and American studies. Overseas, the Met has strong links with international networks across political boundaries. Increasingly, the implications of global pollution will dominate research in the coming years.

"Our research is very long-term, very important and complex. I can't imagine any other problem I

could work on which would allow such an opportunity to pursue original research," says James Murphy, 31, who has a first-class degree in physics from Manchester University.

He will be a key member for the new centre for climate prediction, where he imagines he could progress "for 30 years without being bored". Mr Murphy, who joined the Met in 1981, has already made his mark in developing extra accuracy in using numerical modelling to interpret computerized forecasts.

The Met Office staff want to be seen as professional, accountable and available to the public, but while a few become television personalities, most remain anonymous civil servants, working 42 hours a week, starting on salaries of £10,000-£11,000, rising to above £20,000 for the director general. Many work shifts. In Bracknell and in more than a dozen regional centres (the most recently opened of them in Aberdeen), these dedicated scientists discover their rates of successful forecasting within hours. A "good day" to them is a day well predicted, even if the sun is not shining.

"It's quite flattering that people complain when we get the weather forecast wrong. Several years ago they did not expect it to be right," says BBC Television's forecaster and presenter Suzanne Charlton. Miss Charlton, 27-year-old daughter of footballer Bobby Charlton, decided that meteorology would be her career in her early teens. She

read physics and meteorology at Reading University, after which she joined the Met Office as a support scientist at Bracknell, with additional responsibilities for the computer at Heathrow Airport.

"A circular went around asking if anyone was interested in TV work, and I told my boss I'd like to get my name on file." That led to career advances as a forecaster and part-time training for television, with her first broadcast in March 1989, as one of a team of six.

Most of the time she is working



Weather eye: Tony Burgess operates Frontiers, a computer rain-forecasting system using radar and satellites

and researching on her own, preparing right up to the last minute, with the actual presentation live, without notes. "If necessary, as time runs out, I can summarize the weather in four or five words". That, she adds, could not be done by anyone without professional knowledge. Just before one of the winter gales she had to present the forecast on the European Superchannel, without as much information as was available.

For further information: Kim Turner, Recruitment Section, Room 612, Meteorological Office, London Road, Bracknell, Berks RG12 2SZ. Tel: 0344 856034

01-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

01-481 1066



CLEVELAND CONSTABULARY
APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF CONSTABLE

Applications are invited for the post of Chief Constable of Cleveland Constabulary which will become vacant on 1st August 1990, upon the retirement of the current Chief Constable.

The salary will be £46,713 per annum plus appropriate allowances.

An application form and further details can be obtained from A.J. Hodgkinson, Clerk to Cleveland Police Authority, Cleveland County Council, P.O. Box 100A, Municipal Buildings, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS1 2QH.

Closing date for receipt of applications - 23rd March, 1990.

Cleveland County Council

COOO

An Equal Opportunities Employer.

LEGAL

Assistant Borough Solicitor

Up to c.£25,500

- Low Cost Leased Car
- Free Medical Insurance
- Payment of Professional Fees
- Up to £4,945 Relocation Assistance
- Up to £175 per month Mortgage Subsidy.

If you are a qualified Solicitor, this newly created post can offer an ideal opportunity for you to gain experience across the whole range of Local Government legal work, with a special emphasis on planning and currently including some Parliamentary work.

Your work will be mainly involved with litigation, common law and giving general advice to all departments of the Council, its Committees and its Members. Attendance at evening Committees is therefore essential. There is ample opportunity for advocacy, particularly at planning inquiries.

If you are seeking a challenging career in Local Government law and are capable of working on your own initiative then we would like to hear from you.

If you wish to discuss the post in more detail please ring James Bowler, the Borough Solicitor, on West Malling (0732) 844522 ext. 3225. Alternatively, request an information pack and application form from the Personnel Section, or phone ext. 3259, quoting App. No. 515.

Interviews will take place on 29th/30th March 1990.

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER.



PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED LEGAL ADVISORS

BEXLEY MAGISTRATES' COURT SOUTH EAST LONDON

is thriving, forward thinking and expanding. Barristers, Solicitors and 1989/90 finalists invited to join our team of legal advisers to the Lay Magistracy.

Thorough training and stimulation guaranteed!

Modern methods and traditional values applied to busy and well established civil and criminal jurisdiction. More security than private practice, more variety than prosecuting.

RAPID PROGRESS = RAPID PROMOTION Professionally qualified but with no training in this field will receive a minimum of £17,304.

We expect rapid progress to our scale of £19,001 - £24,592 (and a further £1,042 in call-out fees) with the opportunity to earn performance related increment to a maximum of £25,707.

Scales to be increased to meet cost of living on 1/7/90. Generous removal and relocation package, subsidised mortgage scheme in appropriate cases; sympathetic consideration given to job-sharing. Possibility of Articles for Law Society finalists.

Phone 01-304 5211
for full details and application form.

Closing date: Monday 19th March 1990.

Interviews to be held: Tuesday, 27th March 1990.



Sedgemoor District Council

WANTED

PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR

Reward
UP TO £21,500 pa + other fringe benefits including staff car leasing scheme and relocation expenses of up to £4,000 (excl VAT)

WHERE
Sedgemoor DC in Somerset in the heart of the West Country

WHAT FOR
A job calling for experience particularly in Housing Health, Highways and Common Law matters

WHEN
Immediately, if not sooner!

ACTION
Apply for Information Pack to The Personnel Officer, Town Hall, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 3AS. Tel: 0278-424391

INTERESTED?

For an informal discussion please telephone Christopher Gibson, The Clerk of the Council (ext. 321) Closing date: Monday 19th March

LEGAL

FINANCIAL

RHSAC RIVERSIDE, HOUNSLAW AND SPELTHORPE AUDIT CONSORTIUM

To provide a progressive, comprehensive and effective Internal Audit Service to the Riverside, Hounslow and Spelthorne Audit Authorities, an Audit Consortium has recently been formed.

The creation of this Audit Consortium provides an ideal opportunity for enthusiastic and highly motivated individuals looking for an exciting challenge to join a forward-looking organization.

The Consortium is currently seeking to recruit additional team members to the following posts:

SENIOR ASSISTANT MANAGER

Circa £24K

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Circa £20K

PRINCIPAL AUDITORS

Circa £17K

SENIOR AUDITOR

Circa £15K

AUDIT ASSISTANTS

Circa £11K

Actual salaries, which will be reviewed in April, will depend on qualifications, experience and possession of relevant skills. In addition to salary, benefits must include index linked pension, pension ticket losses, individual recruitment, career facilities.

These posts will provide extensive experience of Internal Audit duties across a wide range of services/activities and emphasis will be placed on the development and training of team staff. Further information may be obtained by contacting: Peter Nott, Assistant Director/Audit Manager on 01-845 7277.

For an application form and job description please contact: District Finance Department, Boudicca House, 118 Fulham Palace Road, London W6. Tel: 01-71-846 7484 or 01-845 7262. Closing date: March 25, 1990.

Interview date: week commencing April 2, 1990.

654a
WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

FINANCIAL

SOLICITOR/LEGAL ADVISER

(SOCIAL SERVICES)

£20,991 - £22,884 p.a. inclusive
plus market supplement of up to
£2,300 p.a.

CAN YOU MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE CHILDREN ACT 1989?

We want a legal professional who is keen to face the considerable challenges of working in the Legal Department of a large and diverse London Borough as the legal adviser to the Council's Social Services Department.

You should be prepared to take a leading role in formulating the Council's policies in relation to new legislation in the field of Social Services.

The successful applicant may be a Solicitor, Barrister or Legal Executive but will have had at least 2 years' experience of advising and representing clients in social service matters, and a detailed knowledge of child welfare law is essential.

The benefits of working for Hillingdon include 100% relocation expenses; a setting-in allowance; lodging/commuting allowance; flexible working hours and a 9 day fortnight.

Job Share will be considered for this post.

If you would like to have an informal discussion regarding this post then please contact Roy Nicholls, Principal Solicitor, on (0895) 50858.

Application forms, quoting reference number BS/14/24XE, are available from the Personnel Division, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1UW. Telephone Uxbridge (0895) 50589 (24 hour answering service available). Closing date 14 March 1990.



HILLINGDON
THE WEST LONDON BOROUGH

654b
Hillingdon, as an equal opportunities employer, welcomes applications from candidates irrespective of race, sex, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability.

This innovative and forward looking Health Authority is in the forefront of implementing change in the management of the National Health Service. It is responsible for the planning and management of Family Practitioner Services for over 1½ million people in the rapidly expanding County of Essex.

The introduction of general management into the FPCs has led to the creation of new Assistant General Manager posts. This will form part of the Authority's Management Board.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER - FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Salary : £30,960 p.a. plus performance related pay.

The postholder will be responsible for the efficient management of the Authority's financial and administrative systems. These will include the information technology, registration and personnel functions. The role will encompass the design, implementation and co-ordination of systems and procedures, in order to provide information to make strategic and operational decisions in a fast moving dynamic environment. The postholder will have responsibility for a staff of 75 and will therefore need to manage and direct all related human resource issues.

This is a front line role and embraces the whole range of the Authority's activities and thus requires that the candidate can demonstrate experience in such a role, where adaptability and a team approach are key aspects. Professional qualification in a management or financial discipline is desirable, but the emphasis is on practical experience.

An information pack is available from Helen Cox at Essex Family Practitioner Committee, Carnarvon House, Carnarvon Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 6QD. telephone 0255 221222 ext. 250. For an informal discussion please contact the General Manager, Graham Butland, on ext 221.

Closing date for application is 31 March

654a
WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

ATHLETICS

Inquiry is called for into what went wrong in Glasgow

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

As a leading officer of the European Athletic Association (EAA) warned yesterday that the body "would be very careful before granting such future competitions to Britain", embarrassed senior British officials said that inquiries would be held into the howlers which blighted the 21st European indoor championships at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, at the weekend.

"The championships did not go smoothly and there is no doubt there were mistakes on our side," Bob Greenock, the secretary of the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association and the local organizing group's meeting manager, said. "I can't understand why these things should have happened because all our officials were experienced. I am going to call a meeting to try to resolve it. This sort of thing has never happened in all the time I have been in athletics and it's happened at the most important meeting I have been involved in. It's depressing."

The howlers included the incorrect positioning of hur-

ries, which forced a women's semi-final to be rerun, the simultaneous starting of the men's 3,000 metres final and the East German national anthem saluting Jens-Peter Herold's win in the 1,500 metres, and the publication of wrongly drawn heats.

Tony Ward, the spokesman for the British Amateur Athletic Board, the host body with overall responsibility, said: "We are very concerned at what happened. We have not had a post-meeting analysis yet but clearly that will happen. A number of things went wrong and we accept that mistakes were made. We have to analyse what they were and why they occurred. Some of us at the board are embarrassed. There was a distinct lack of experience in certain quarters."

Ward added that he did not expect the mistakes to jeopardize Britain's efforts to stage important championships in the future, drawing attention to what happened as being "in sharp contrast to the highly successful staging of the European Cup in Gateshead last year". However, Pierre Das-

ries, the EAA secretary, said: "I think the EAA council would be very careful before granting such future competitions to Britain."



Predatory eyes on a second eagle: Norman at the first hole of the sudden-death play-off, which he won in glorious fashion

Norman's year of the eagle

From John Ballantine
Miami

Greg Norman may have the last laugh on Americans who have called him a superstar with feet of clay. The Australian, after winning the Doral Ryder Open in the most dramatic finish of the season, probably has built up the confidence to have the great year on the US tour that was predicted for him in 1983.

In eight seasons he has won eight tournaments but no major titles. He has failed narrowly several times, notably at the 1984 US Open, where he lost a play-off to Fuzzy Zoeller, and at the 1987 Masters, in which Larry Mize noted a hole came to him again in a play-off.

But perhaps only Jack Nicklaus in his heyday could have equalled the Great White Shark's achievement on Sunday, £66,660 richer than when he left it. You could almost hear his bank manager chirruping, "That should do nicely, Mr Woosnam."

Eight years ago the same bank manager would have questioned giving Woosnam a small loan, let alone allowing him to enter a Gold Card. The Welshman won on the borderline, surviving, by his own admission, on a diet of beans and crisps. He has neither forgotten that nor his roots.

It was quite like the old days as, with other Ryder Cup players, he had to take a coach, hastily hired because Gibraltar airport was shut. Woosnam spent his formative years on the European tour, travelling from venue to venue in a van which doubled as his hotel. Consequently, he has discovered that being 5ft 4in tall has its advantages.

Yesterday, back home in Oswestry, Woosnam set about arranging his week's programme. It will include three or four games of golf on local

Woosnam will no longer be dining on beans and crisps

From Mitchell Platini, Golf Correspondent, Marbella

Ian Woosnam had little cause to complain as he shook off the effects of a grueling eight-hour overland, overnight journey from the Costa del Sol to Madrid. As the inaugural winner of the Mediterranean Open, he was returning home to Oswestry £66,660 richer than when he left it. You could almost hear his bank manager chirruping, "That should do nicely, Mr Woosnam."

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courses with friends with whom he has won a million in prize money alone will play for stakes unchanged by his success.

"It will be £1 for the front nine, £1 for the back nine and £1 for the match," Woosnam said. "They make me play off plus four now but nothing else has changed. I'm treated no differently than I was when I was working behind the bar at the golf club to earn my keep so that I could use the practice facilities. It's refreshing, relaxing, that it should still be the way."

It is remarkable in more ways than one. Woosnam has lost only once to his amateur chums but the exercise of giving single-figure scores or eight shots is enough to examine his competitive spirit.

He had three months off in the winter which I needed because mentally I was zapped after several years of almost non-stop golfing and travelling," Woosnam said. "It did me the world of good. But I still played a lot of golf with my mates, so my game wasn't too rusty when I came out. Still, it's great to win first time out; I've never done that before."

Neither has Woosnam won a major championship. Sandy Lyle and Nick Faldo have, and while Woosnam points to a

win in St Andrews being a suitable setting for him to win the Open, there is every reason to believe that at Augusta he could continue a trend initiated in 1988 by Lyle and continued last year by Faldo in returning home as the Master golfer.

"I'd be nervous if the chance came along but then again I get nervous every time I'm in contention," Woosnam explained. "You can play all the shots, be totally aggressive, be confident but still feel nervous. I did on Sunday. The fairway at the last can be a mile wide but when you stand on the tee with a tournament to be won it naturally overcomes belief."

Woosnam has matured. There were times after his success in 1987 when I detected that he was in danger of losing his way by becoming preoccupied with the business of making money. In retrospect what the farmer's son was achieving was what we all seek — security and stability.

He has that now and more.

He has a wonderful family life. He has his friends. And he has a golf swing which even his peers must envy. I suspect he might land that major championship, if not by the end of this year, then by 1998 when, at the age of 40, he claims he will retire.

Festival as the Prince is toppled

Simon Barnes

Bridgetown, Barbados

Racing is the same everywhere in the world and everywhere in the world it is utterly unique. A race commentary is unmissable, a race commentary, no matter which language it is spoken in. Wilting and losing means the same thing to every nationality of punter, owner, trainer, jockey and bookmaker. A turn-up betting slip is worth the same in each hemisphere.

But the universal language of racing is always spoken with a strong local accent. The race-based officials at Mysore, the figure-juggling witsaces at Aqueduct, New York; the over-produced women at Longchamps, Paris; the casual pomposities of Ascot, England; the silent intensities of Happy Valley, Hong Kong — the racing impulse is expressed in different ways in every country where winners and losers exist.

I have been here in Barbados covering the big race of the year, the Cockspur Rum Gold Cup. It was a tough assignment, but someone had to do it. And amid all the noise and confusion, the principle emotion came through loud and clear: joy. This was a good race and an even better party. This is, in short, one of the great events of the racing year.

The favourite, Sandford Prince, was trained by Scobie Breasley — yes, that one, the Australian who was four times champion jockey in England and who won the Derby in 1976. He now admits to being 76, but many insist he is still older. Riding his horse was Venice Richards, who admits to being



Breasley: a veteran trainer

46, but Breasley, a fine one in talk, thinks he is at least 50. No one could say the pair was short on experience.

The owner was David Seale, a white Bajan business man. His rather splendid up-country spread includes beautifully designed loose boxes, a swimming pool for horses and a distillery. Seale owns a rival Cockspur Rum, called ESA Fields, or ESA. Bajan rum drinkers say this stands for — but hints, make up for yourself, this is a respectable newspaper.

Sandford Prince is a chunky chestnut by a gelding on Wood, a great batter of violins to his box. He won the race in 1989 and was even money for a repeat. A word about a pricked hoof from the farrier was making Seale tense: another racing universal. The farrier doubles as a trainer: another Bajanism.

There were four horses from other Caribbean islands, including Far Too Pleasant, bred by Trinidadian, called Roland Khan, or "The Age" to Caribbean cognoscenti. He won the race in 1988 with another horse, which stakes up the fire of inter-island rivalry a treat.

This is Barbados' Derby Day, and as Derby Day used to be, it is a free festival. The field is open for anyone who wants to party. It was a great noisy shouting crowd of men, women and children, most of them eating, drinking, smoking and shouting, all at the same time. The football gangs have spoiled much of Derby Day in England: perhaps the in-field at Garrison Savannah is what Derby Day was like in mood in the days of the famous Victorian game painting.

There was sentimental money bet on a locally-bred horse, a "creole", called Coo-Bird, and there was speculative money on a French-trained horse, called Vardar — but the horse was only three, and the jockey, Patrick Husband, only 16. No, the Prince was the one: Two in a row for the Prince. Nothing to touch him, right?

The crowd in the in-field picked vantage spots on the rails, the Cockspur Rum dances — called, I promise you, the Cockettes — strutted their stuff. The Prince paraded looking cool, and Venice Richards, looking as haggard as any jockey in the world, swung into the saddle.

And they were off, around nine furlongs of a desperately tight track. The paddock bend is a hairpin — oh no, did the Prince stumble? Along the back straight, the Prince was pushed into position, and around the last bend the field set sail for home. The top two Cambridge horses availed a white wash in this high-quality contest with narrow victories over their opposite numbers, the lively Swinburne, achieving a double with a forfeited win over Andrew Scarfe.

The Prince! The Prince! But no. Twenty-eight pounds lighter, the three-year-old French horse, Vardar, was uncatchable, winning by half a length, at 4-1. And, win it back on the next race, losing punters say every where. And, of course, the winners must party. Husband said: "There will be a lot of drinks and I understand we will be having curried goat and rice. As winners say Barbados.

BASKETBALL

Tall order for title chasers

By Nicholas Harling

A match that might have been regarded almost with disdain by Sunderland in their pursuit of the Caribbean League title has suddenly been turned into one of far more serious proportions by the loss of two of their key players.

In normal circumstances the visit to Solent on Saturday would have been one that Sunderland would have taken in their stride. But now that Clyde Vaughan, who is injured, has joined Scott Wilke, out through suspension, on the sidelines, Sunderland may find that their work is cut out against opponents who do not lack height.

Wilke, who is 6ft 9in, serves a one-match ban following his dismissal at Kingston last month. Vaughan, 6ft 5in, twisted an ankle in the 97-76 defeat of London Docklands on Sunday so badly that he is almost certain to miss the visit to Derby tomorrow week and the potentially decisive home game with Kingston the following Sunday.

"Without me and Scott, that's around 32 points gone," Vaughan said yesterday. "We're the club's two best rebounders but hopefully the other guys will be able to see us through.

"This is terrible for me as it's the first time I can remember having an injured team-mate to keep me in the game or three games in a row. It's also come at a bad time for the club with us still having an outside chance of winning the league title."

With Manchester facing a fixture backlog in the wake of postponements following the death last week of Tony Penny, and Bracknell fast slipping out of contention, Sunderland have emerged as the most serious challengers to Kingston's leadership. Bracknell, who improved on the previous week's 32-point home defeat by Sunderland in Thursday's return, which they lost by only seven points, can still have a significant say in the title's destiny.

The Bracknell club has yet to meet all three clubs above them, starting with tomorrow's visit to Kingston in the eighth meeting between the clubs this season, two of which Bracknell won on occasions when they were at their unpredictable best. Kingston, though, are not in the mood to slip up again, as Moors (29 points) and Cunningham (27), in particular, demonstrated during Saturday's 99-77 victory at Luton.

Bracknell avenged the 93-92 mid-week reverse at Solent by winning the return 90-81, with Scott the most relieved of victims. It was Scott's last-second offence that enabled Solent to win the first game, but his 33 points on Saturday more than made up for that little lapse.

BOXING

Eubank plotting another set-up

By Srikrumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Hugo Cordin, of Argentina, could be in for a shock. It all depends on how well he has done his homework. For tonight he meets Chris Eubank, of Britain, for the World Boxing Council International middle-weight title at York Hall, Bethnal Green, London.

Eubank is the most enthusiastic member of the "new needs" boxing family — Peter's antics pointiness, but he is in fact an interesting and constructive boxer who sets up his men before setting about them. Eubank has a sound chin and a good defence and believes he can beat any middleweight in Britain except Graham. Men like Nigel Benn would have to be brought forcibly, kicking and struggling, to face Eubank.

Chris, aged 26, will not be as easy to dispose of as Eubank's last six victims. He is a good boxer. As an amateur he was Argentinian and South American champion and boxed in the Los Angeles Olympics as soon as possible.

But he is not a Johnny Nelson. He does not just pose at

ICE HOCKEY

League record is next target for champions

By Norman de Mesquita

Cardiff Devils secured their first Heineken League premier division title in the grand manner on Sunday. They led Peterborough 5-0 after only 16 minutes and went on to win by the handsome margin of 17-7, thus achieving their fourteenth successive victory, which equals the divisional record presently held by Murrayfield Racers.

The Racers are in a position to prevent that record being broken as they face the Devils for the last part of this season before rejoining the Pirates, stood aside and invited Steve Morris to score his side's 14th goal.

There was a bizarre ending to the Cardiff victory as the visiting goalies, Chris Newell, who was with the Devils for the first part of this season before rejoining the Pirates, stood aside and invited Steve Morris to score his side's 14th goal.

Chris obliged. Newton was awarded a misconduct penalty

and the Pirates informed him that his services were no longer required.

Another goal-scorer whose behaviour was less than impeccable was Russ Jackson, of Leek Valley Lions. During the final period of Sunday's home division one defeat by Swindon Wildcats, he seemed more interested in assaulting one of his team colleagues than preventing the Wildcats from scoring.

Jackson even continued the feud as the teams were leaving the ice at the end of the game and had to be restrained by his captain, Steve James, and for Llanelli.

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Polyfemus to press Aintree claim

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

Several hopefuls for this year's Grand National will be on view at Warwick and Sedgfield today.

At Warwick, eight of the runners declared for the Cradwell Cup are still engaged in the Aintree spectacular, the pick being Polyfemus, who is nappy to win today's feature race over 3½ miles.

Had the ground been better at Haydock last Saturday, the Michael Robinson-trained eight-year-old would have contested the much more valuable Greenhalf Whitley Gold Cup after really pleasing his connections in his recent homework near Wantage.

I'm not concerned that

Polyfemus has not run for nine weeks because he is clearly a clean-winded horse who is capable of giving his best after a lengthy break.

For evidence of that one only has to refer to his first run of the season at Cheltenham where he made every yard of the running to easily account for the subsequent Welsh National third, Charter Hardware.

Judged on the way that Polyfemus finished at the end that three miles, three furlongs event, today's slightly longer distance should not pose a problem.

On his next and only other appearance this season, Polyfemus won the Mandarin Chase at Newbury where he again made virtually all the

running, again showing no sign whatsoever of letting up, pressed hard all the way to the line by the Hennessy Gold Cup runner-up, Brown Windsor.

As Solidasrock, who had earlier won the SGB Chase at Ascot, was three lengths behind in third place, the form of the Mandarin has a thoroughly reliable look about it.

Tenants could prove his most troublesome rival, having beaten Willsford so readily at Leicester last time. Jenny Pitman's chaser looked like winning the big race at Haydock on Saturday until he overjumped the last fence and fell.

Midnight Madness and Mister Christian dominated the finish of a similar race run

over today's course and distance in January. On that occasion victory went to Midnight Madness by a neck. Now the handicapper has allowed Mister Christian a pound.

The three races sponsored by the Perpetual Group constitute an Anglo-European jockeys' challenge with mounts decided by ballot.

As he trains for the sponsors Martin Pipe will be keen to visit the winner's enclosure, which he can do thanks to Harley Street Man (230). However, stable companion Mighty Prince could well be thwarted in his race by the recent Lingfield winner Wingcommander East (30).

East is taken to win the Hilton National Novices Chase in the belief that he will

Henderson warms up for festival with double

By Paul Wheeler

With the Cheltenham Festival just seven days away, Nick Henderson gave notice as to the well-being of his team with a double from two runners at Windsor yesterday.

He proved the Cheltenham hopeful when Freddie Milking won the first division of the Thames Novices Hurdle. Defying a 7lb penalty, he took the lead half a mile from home and drew clear in the hands of Michael Denwood, beating Young Pockey, the 6-1 favourite, by 12 lengths.

The seven-old is entered, along with Whatever You Like, for the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices Hurdle. A delighted Henderson said: "He quickened up really well, and he could go to Cheltenham. We'll certainly have to think about it."

Henderson confirmed that See You Then will have one more home gallop before attempting a record-breaking fourth Champion Hurdle victory.

As his last, Henderson greeted his 32nd winner of the season when The Humble Tiller won the College Novices Chase to complete a double for Denwood.

Alabam was another trainer in double form. Hattie High was the final gelding to stay off from 170 to 175m at Cheltenham, 6lb soft, with WOODGATE (65) worse (25) 21st. NEWBURY's best Mandahl Shuffles (31) was 10th, 6lb soft, with WOODGATE (60) and OVER THE ROAD (58).

TEMERANTY remained useful to defeat Winstord (41, pair 151 clear, at Leicester (30), soft).

4.00 ELIAST. 4.30 EASTERN DESTINY (nap). Brian Beel's selection: 4.30 Eastern Destiny.

WARWICK

Selections

By Mandarin

1.30 Le Piccologue.
2.00 Close Escape.
3.20 Haynes Street Man.
3.00 Wingcommander East.

By Michael Seely

4.00 Eliaist. 4.30 EASTERN DESTINY (nap).
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 5.00 DARK HONEY.

Brian Beel's selection: 4.30 Eastern Destiny.

Going: good to soft (soft in places)

1.30 ANDY LLOYD BENEFIT NOVICES HURDLE (Div 2: 22.024: 2m 5f) (20 runners)

1. 006-14F ABU MURKIL 1 (G Edwards) G Edwards 6-11-2
2. 007-14F CELTIC NIFLE 463 (Mrs I Brewster) Mrs I Brewster 6-11-2
3. 008-14F CULLEANN 6 (Glenfarg Farms Ltd) P Cowley 5-11-2
4. 009-14F DUNLOP 10 (Mrs I Brewster) Mrs I Brewster 7-11-2
5. 010-14F FELS DU PARIS 61 (A G Edwards) A G Edwards 5-11-2
6. 011-14F LE PICCOLOGUE 52 (Mrs M Clark) M Henderson 6-11-2
7. 012-14F SEVENIR INVADER 18 (Steven Office Supplies) R Dickin 5-11-2
8. 023-14F SHANSTON 14 (Kingsgate Roofing South) G W Turner 5-11-2
9. 040-14F STRAND BREEZE 34 (P L Powes) D Nicholls 6-11-2
10. 041-14F TIGER 15 (Mrs I Brewster) Mrs I Brewster 5-11-2
11. 042-14F TIGER 15 (Mrs I Brewster) Mrs I Brewster 5-11-2
12. 043-14F BORDER CHERRY 17 (T Bailey) T Bailey 5-11-2
13. 044-14F BOTTLE BARRIER 344 (P Reddish) J Ringier 5-11-2
14. 045-14F BREWING 12 (G S Smith) G S Smith 5-11-2
15. 046-14F PEONY ROSE 21 (Mrs D Jones) M Pipe 5-11-2
16. 047-14F SOUTH STAR 2 (Mrs I Brewster) Mrs I Brewster 5-11-2
17. 048-14F STAFFORD PARK 10 (G Edwards) G Edwards 5-11-2
18. 049-14F VERITATE 513 (Mrs J Wilkinson) M Wilkinson 5-10-11
19. 050-14F TOPHARNE 17 (S Gredge) R Lee 4-1-7
20. 051-14F BETTING 11-14 (Pineapple) R Lee 4-1-7
21. 052-14F BOTTLE BREEZE 14 (Mrs I Brewster) Mrs I Brewster 5-11-2
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FOOTBALL

Turner says Mutch may leave Wolves if the price is right

By Dennis Shaw and Nicholas Harding

Graham Turner, the manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers, hinted yesterday that he would consider breaking up one of the most prolific scoring partnerships in the Football League if Aston Villa offered enough money for Andy Mutch.

Turner reacted sharply to reports of the interest from his former club in Steve Bull's forward partner by accusing them of attempting to sign him at below his market price.

"If Aston Villa make an approach manager-to-manager or chairman-to-chairman, then we'll talk to them," he said. "If they want to go through the side door, trying to get players on the cheap, then we don't want to know."

Taylor, who has previously made unsuccessful attempts to sign Bull, has been reported on a local radio station to be ready to pay £300,000 for the other half of the duo that has led the Molineux club from the fourth division to a challenging position for promotion to the first.

Taylor, however, would neither confirm nor deny an

3-2 win at Blackburn on

Romario severe loss to PSV

Overseas football by Keith Blackmore

PSV Eindhoven found their best form in the Dutch league on Sunday but lost perhaps their most important player in the process.

The Brazilian forward, Romario, the leading scorer in the league this year and last, fractured his right fibula in a

collision with a defender.

He had already scored twice

as PSV overwhelmed Den Haag 9-2 to maintain their one-point lead at the top of the first division but his injury could scarcely have come at a more

unwelcome time, only three months before the World Cup finals and three days before the first leg of his club's European Cup quarter-final against Bayern Munich in West Germany.

Romario would have missed the first match of the World Cup through suspension in any case, but he will also miss Brazil's preparations which begin on April 23. More immediately, his injury deepens the problems of Gus Hiddink, the PSV coach, who must also do without Kook and Kalista Bwalya, who are injured, and await the outcome of a fitness test on Stiven Leroy, the Danish midfield player.

AC Milan, who play Mechanics in the European Cup, recovered from a rare lapse by their sweep, Franco Baresi, to retain their position at the top of the Italian first division. Naples, made hard work of keeping pace with the leaders without Maradona, who was injured, they seemed likely to go no better than draw with the German team who had been reduced to 10 men when Romario was sent off in the second half, until Francini scored the winner in injury time.

Azeglio Vicini, the coach to the national team, watched a goalless draw between Sampdoria and Juventus but, the result notwithstanding, he will have been encouraged by the sight of Gianni Vialli making his first appearance of the year after injury.

Two goals in the last five minutes allowed Real Madrid to increase their lead at the top of the Spanish first division to nine points. Butragueño and Sánchez produced the goals which ended the resistance of Seville. John Aldridge enjoyed another good day, scoring twice for Real Sociedad as they beat Rayo Vallecano 4-1.

In France, Bresser lost 3-0 to Cannes, a result which should encourage Marseilles, four points behind Bordeaux with two games in hand.

According to Bresser, the master is now closed and the world champion could be back at the Aspiras Club on June 18 to complete his

preparations for Wimbledon which starts a week later.

Becker's acceptance of the position would seem to open the way for the management committee of the Lawn Tennis Association to nominate the \$250,000 (about £140,000) Wirral International. But Ian Penman, executive director of the LTA, suggested yesterday that the decision might not be so clear-cut.

"Becker is not going to see, but that is not relevant. You can't offer \$1 million and then change your mind about it halfway through the tournament. There is still some concern about the incident and the management committee will take that into consideration when they make their decision.

The Chancellor presides over silver collection

MICHAEL POWELL



Trophy cabinet: John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (centre) holds the NatWest one-day trophy during the Business of Sport exhibition at the House of Commons yesterday. He is flanked by Colin Moynihan (left), the Minister for Sport, with the Beefeater trophy for the Boat Race, and Denis Howell, the former Minister for Sport, with the Barclays Football League Trophy, which is presented to the first division champions

ICE SKATING: ATTENTION FOCUSED ON JUDGING PERFORMANCES IN CANADA

Browning poised to retain title

From John Hennessy
Halifax
Nova Scotia

Kurt Browning, the Canadian holder of the men's figure skating title, assumed pole position in the world championships after yesterday's compulsories. True, he was beaten by Richard Zander, but the German, a figure specialist, is unlikely to be where it matters after the men's final on Thursday evening.

It was a taut struggle which left only one of the first seven placings. Zander, however, after the first figure, two of the men to share Browning's main challengers, Viktor Petrenko of the Soviet Union, and Christopher Bowman, of the United States, Browning

overhauled Petrenko and Bowman, now seventh, was similarly replaced by his compatriot, Todd Eldredge.

Steven Cousins, of Britain, was 25th, slaughtered unmercifully by Joao Nobile, the British judge. She gave him 1.9 for the first mark and 2.1 for the second. Donna Gately, Cousins' trainer, tightened her lips afterwards and offered an icy "no comment".

The couples take the stage today, the ice dances for their compulsories and the pairs for their original programme. Altogether there are 44 couples involved, though you might be forgiven for thinking that there was only one.

The electrifying performance of Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay in the European championships

in Leningrad last month reverberated round the skating world, nowhere more strongly than in Canada. Isabelle and her brother, born of a French mother and Canadian father, compete for France only because the Canadians failed to recognize their potential in their home country.

The referee has a powerful influence on these occasions and it will be surprising if the French-Canadian couple do not wind up second here to the holders, Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarev, of the Soviet Union, rather than third behind another couple from Moscow, Masha Usova and Alexander Zhulin. The luck of the draw has also fallen France's way. Neither the Soviet Union nor Hungary, whose competitors just happen to be the Duchesnays' principal opponents, have a judge on the panel.

There is one important new factor in the equation. The referee here will be Lawrence Demmy, once world champion himself, who publicly expressed his anger in Leningrad when the French couple were placed only third in the free-skating and the

overall positions, and even fourth in the free dance, by the representatives of the Soviet Union and Hungary.

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Counties to vote down four-day plan

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

The structure of England's cricket administration will be seriously questioned this week, if, as seems depressingly certain, the reactionaries within the Test and County Cricket Board deny the game its overdue revolution.

Despite the avowed support of players, coaches and everyone associated with the England team, the four-day county championship recommended by the board's cricket committee is set to be sacrificed on the altar of parsimony.

The response, from those with the wider interests of English cricket at heart, is unlikely to be compliant.

A hectic round of canvassing, aimed at setting county members against the plan, appears to have won the day. The board's two-day spring meeting, starting at Lord's today, will debate the issue, no doubt hotly and at length, but

there is a grim acceptance among the proposers that the counties will vote it down by a margin as high as 11-6. The biggest concession likely is a small increase in the existing number of four-day matches.

Nothing could be more ironical than the likelihood of the reactionaries using in their evidence, the fact of England's Test win last week.

If the West Indies can be beaten, they may say, there is nothing wrong with the county game as it stands.

This conveniently overlooks the way in which England prepared for this tour in the months after their domestic season ended. Micky Stewart and Graham Gooch, alarmed by the effects of the county programme and the way it is approached, concentrated the minds of their players on the longer game. They preached occupation of the crease, off-stump bowling and other such fundamental virtues which had become buried amid the chaotic de-

mands of a frequently artificial three-day game.

It has worked. At Sabina Park, last week, English batsmen were at last seeking to bat for long periods, as Test cricket demands, while the English bowlers freed from the negative leg-side theories which cluttered their county lives, were a revelation.

Without exception, the 16

by Donald Carr, is that the definition of an off-side pitch should "take into consideration a pitch which often exaggerates sideways movement where the ball consistently dominates the bat".

There was concern last summer that too much grass was left on pitches. Under the proposal, umpires would be asked to bear in mind that ideally pitches should not be green in appearance. If the groundsmen does his job properly, then the working party believes there should not be

any need for artificial watering later than one week before the match concerned.

The cricket committee of the TCCB has recommended that a convex-faced bat designed by a Kent company and Christopher Cowdrey "specifically for sloping" should be banned. The TCCB will be looking for backing on this from MCC. It is a decade since Dennis Lillee's infamous aluminium bat was declared illegal. Another recommendation is that a county gaining a home draw in the quarter-

finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup will in future be able to play a county from the same qualifying group.

The TCCB also plans to investigate wider use of public light meters, similar to those used at Old Trafford. These indicate the state of the conditions to the public and are a useful ally for umpires.

The meeting is also likely to agree to an experiment with machine-stitched balls in the second XI championship on the grounds that they may be of a more consistent quality.

Counties would need to adapt. Certain complacent routines would have to change. But it is so obviously to the benefit of the England team, that the counter-arguments seem frivolous.

A chance to improve our cricket is, it seems, being thrown away. The reaction of some, whose years of work on the reforms are threatened with redundancy, may well be to propose a division of the TCCB, so that those whose local selfishness precludes any concessions to the general good, in future have power only over local matters. Now that suggestions really will provoke fascinating debate.

be negligible and corporate boxes would still be sold if the 16 games were sensibly scheduled and faith in the new product was established by pitches designed to last the distance. Festivals can happily survive on one four-day and two one-day games.

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END COLUMN

Fear of drawing a TV blank

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

Television news coverage of top sport is in danger of being blacked out by the planned financial free-for-all surrounding the screening of big events. For the first time, independent Television News is not covering an England cricket tour in the West Indies, after refusing to pay £50,000 for news rights.

"We believe there is a point of principle in this and there are real problems for the future in the coverage of major sporting events for news programmes," David Mannion, the associate editor of ITN, says.

With the Government proposing to allow sports bodies and authorities to sell the television rights for 10 "listed" events, such as Wimbledon and the FA Cup Final, to the highest bidder, ITN chiefs fear they could be prevented from covering the news element of top sporting occasions.

ITN wants a distinction to be made by people marketing television rights for sports events between broadcasters providing straight news coverage and those offering extended coverage of the sporting occasion — such as ball-by-ball screening of a Test match.

Concern over 'pricing out'

The concern that news coverage of sport could be "priced out" by the auctioning of television sports rights has prompted the Independent Broadcasting Authority to see Home Office officials. The IBA, which regulates commercial television, wants the Broadcasting Bill changed to guarantee news access to the 10 listed events.

Although the present Test series is not one of the 10 "listed" events, owing to it being staged outside England, Mannion believes the difficulties ITN has encountered highlight the potential problems facing television news organizations.

Mark McCormack's Trans World International, which handled all television rights for the Test series on behalf of the West Indian Cricket Board, originally asked ITN for £50,000 for news rights — subsequently reduced to £40,000.

ITN offered £15,000 for the first three Tests with an option to pay extra for the remaining games, depending on the size of the series.

Given that the news broadcasts screened by ITN would have been short, Mannion believes the company was being asked to pay more per minute than Sky, which has bought the rights to live coverage, and the BBC, which provides an evening summary.

"We wished to cover the series purely as a news event," Mannion says. "Although we understand the world is changing, and it is legitimate for an organization which has a marketable event to make a commercial gain, we felt TWI should treat companies who wished to cover the event purely for news differently."

"We thought the figure they were asking was out of proportion to the amount of coverage we could give the event and the reason for covering it."

Increasing friction over news access

Over the past year there has been increasing friction between the BBC and ITV over news access to British football. With the BBC having bought up the rights to the FA Cup and ITV having purchased rights to League matches, both broadcasters have proved exceedingly eggy about letting each other have news reports of their "property".

Although the debate over selling television sports rights to the highest bidder is still in the balance, David Mellor, the Home Office minister responsible for broadcasting, would be wise to confirm his government's intention to act on reasoned argument and step in to safeguard news access for television companies.

While selling off television sports rights to the highest bidder would undoubtedly benefit all sports and create improved facilities and championships for the future, there is a world of difference between buying up ball-by-ball coverage of a Test or the FA Cup Final — and preventing news coverage of a prestige occasion.

Sheffield United sold for £20m Arabian dream

By Peter Bell

Sheffield United is the latest British company, and the first football club, to pass into Middle Eastern hands. The present chairman, Reg Bresley, announced at Bramall Lane yesterday that he is selling his majority shareholding in the second division club to Sam Hashmi, a property developer and managing director of Anglo-Arab Investments.

The shares are to be purchased through Barnacle Holdings, a Jersey-based company owned by a trust, with a parent company in Saudi Arabia. Hashmi is the trust's nominee and Barnacle's chairman.

It is expected to purchase 51 per cent of Bresley's shares, leaving him holding 11 per cent. No figures were forthcoming yesterday but Bresley said it will also cover most of the club's estimated £3 million debt, putting the total outlay at around £5 million. Bresley believes it is a bargain, insisting that once the debts are cleared and the deal done, the club will be "worth £20 million".

"Our aim is to take the club into the first division, where it belongs," Hashmi said yesterday, promising that money would be available for Dave Bassett, the manager, if it was required, but he was also quick to admit that the Middle Eastern dimension was going to be important in the future.

"We will have access to one million potential supporters in the Middle East and there will be a great opportunity to

concede."

"One point of concern for

the rest of the directors was that the shares must come back to the board if Mr Hashmi withdraws," Paul Woolhouse, the club's second largest shareholder, said. "It is important that we are not kisssing those shares goodbye."

For the moment, Bresley remains as chairman. Hashmi, aged 32, a former forward and captain of Baghdad University team, will initially become vice-chairman, the two swapping positions when the arrangements are finalized, probably in June.

These arrangements inevitably evoke echoes of Michael Knighton's abortive takeover attempt at Manchester United. Further echoes resounded as Hashmi confessed that he had first been alerted to the possibility of buying a football club by events at Old Trafford, and indeed had enquired about the price of Manchester United before settling on Sheffield, and when he refused to divulge details of where the money was coming from.

"We're on the brink of a new dimension, the first division," he added. "We can't go on expecting Dave Bassett to find players for £25,000 and turn them into £1 million players, we have got to have more financial strength, and the time was right to find more financial muscle now rather than waiting until we get into the first division."

The sale received the blessing of the other five directors at a heated board meeting yesterday morning. The rest of the board extracted safeguards, which Hashmi confirmed, he was happy to concede.

"It is an open secret that Hashmi's London company is a subsidiary of a bid Saudi Arabian company, with the multi-millionaire mayor of Jeddah, Sheikh Abdul Momeneh, heavily linked to the purchase."



Desert song: Bassett, the Sheffield United manager, initiates Hashmi into the circle

Brabham head for Phoenix

By a Special Correspondent

A dramatic turnaround last night saw the Brabham Formula One motor racing team planning desperately to get their cars to Phoenix for the season's opening grand prix on Sunday.

On Friday it was announced that they were being bailed out by Middlebridge, a Japanese company, but a former Oxford coxswain, Martin Moynihan, himself a former Oxford coxswain, were in attendance and with the Beef-eater Gin Trophy on display, the presidents named their crews.

The Oxford line-up is impressive and well tested, with full talent that two winning Blues, Richard Thorp and Cal Maclean, are named in the reserve boat. Johnny Scarle, Rupert Obholzer and Matthew Pinset were all medal

winners in the senior world

championships last autumn

and the American, Mike Gaffey, Scarle and Richard Hull and all Blues, Hull occupies

the same five seat that he

eventually took over in the 1987 "Mutiny" year.

Tom Slocock, Chris

Heachote and coxswain,

Marin Watts, all served their

apprenticeship in the winning

Iris crew last year. The

final seat has gone to an American, Don Miller, finally preferred to a fellow-American, Dan Johnson.

Cambridge have two Blues

at their disposal, the presi-

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State together with the

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had moved up to first crew

status and Ed Clarke, so near

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and the American, Mike Gaffey, Scarle and Richard Hull occupies

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Tom Slocock, Chris

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